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Vol. 11, No. 7

WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH, 1986

603 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

Phone (03) 605 4257/58 (editorial)
(03) 605 4259 (advertising)

\$1.40 recommended price only

A MAY BE SYDNEY'S SECRET WEAPON

Croatias in clash of the century



Luka Bonacic raises both fists in triumph and is congratulated by Steve Gojevic, Davor Todorovic and Josip Biskic after scoring the winning goal in the 1986 Buffalo Gold Cup final. See story page 7. Picture: LES SHORROCK.

nte Rumora from Dinamo Zagreb could line-up which clashes with Melbourne Jelena Shield match at Olympic Park at winning club pocketing \$5,000.

Saturday, would be one of a host of stars what should be an enthralling encounter

orders of the Buffalo and Ampol Cups will be in on Sunday — Melbourne Croatia's Gary Ward

and will be well aware of the side's strength down the right.

Bleiberg switched both Dejanovic and Biskic to the left in Melbourne Croatia's 3-2 semi-final win over George Cross and may consider a similar ploy to confuse Rozic's match plan.

The clash between Melbourne Croatia stopper Dave McIntosh and Sydney Croatia's striker Graham Arnold should be well worth watching. McIntosh and Carl Glider of George Cross has an almighty battle in the Buffalo Gold Cup semi. Gilders rarely turns past McIntosh and Arnold will find that task awesome.

Similarly, the battle between one of Melbourne Croatia's unsung heroes, the ever reliable George Hannah, and Sydney Croatia's Jurin will be spellbinding. Jurin has skill to burn while Hannah is one of the really great competitors in the National League — that means that we're in for a treat when they confront each other.

Sydney Croatia is almost certain to try to catch out its Melbourne foe on the break. Indeed, such a tactic has been

come Sydney Croatia's hallmark.

Melbourne Croatia sweeper Tony Curcio will be kept on his toes throughout this absorbing encounter.

Melbourne Croatia and Sydney Croatia met three times last year with the Victorian outfit winning each time. In the Victorian Cup in Adelaide, Melbourne Croatia won 1-0 with McIntosh the scorer. In their clash to celebrate the opening of North Geelong's new complex, Melbourne Croatia won 2-0

with goals by Biskic and Ward and in a friendly in Sydney, Melbourne Croatia won 3-1 with Ward scoring twice.

At the risk of sounding parochial, I'm going for Melbourne Croatia to win what could prove the clash of the century. I'll certainly be at Olympic Park on Sunday to watch the skill and flair of Steve Gojevic, Jurin, Biskic, Ozdakovic, Bonacic, Wally Savo, Davor Todorovic and hopefully Rumora.

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LAGER FOR LIONS

Belic: watch out for JUST!

A six-figure sponsorship of Brisbane Lions by Foster's Lager (Carlton and United Breweries) ultimately could reap the club extra match points in Melbourne this season.

Part of the sponsorship includes pre-match overnight stays for all of Lions' games in the Victorian capital this season.

And Lions coach Gordon Arrowsmith is ecstatic.

"Last year many of the players complained of tiredness just before the match after travelling for several hours. It made us very vulnerable in the opening minutes and in quite a few matches in Melbourne last year we conceded early goals," Arrowsmith said.

This year Lions will travel to Melbourne on Saturday afternoon and the team will spend the night at a leisure activity centre discussing the next day's match. The training will include a light training session and a specially prepared brunch.

"Food proved another problem when we were travelling. We could never get the right food at the right time and subsequently the players were eating not enough early on or too much too close to the game," Arrowsmith said.

"But Foster's are organizing their hotels to give us special meals and energy food stuffs minimum cost. It's a very professional approach and we are grateful for the assistance from Carlton."

Lions presently are on their north Queensland tour, also part of the sponsorship, and played three matches last week as a final warm-up for the NSL season.

— RICKY ROSSO

Led by the legendary Drago Sekularac and equipped with the finest attack since the days of Slobodan Zoraja and Branko Buljevic, Footscray JUST is set for its best season in the NSL.

And its success, says midfielder Vlatko Belic, will be tested by Sekularac's professional approach and the toughest training regime the players ever have undertaken.

Belic and his team-mates are undaunted by the realisation that they must finish at least in the top five if they are to be included in the elite 14-team league next year.

"The players realise that finishing in the top five is the only way we'll survive in the league," he says, "and we're all determined to do it."

Sekularac has been training his men six and seven times a week since he arrived from Yugoslavia along with his three recruits, Vlado Stosic, Zoran Nikitovic and Vojislav Vukcevic.

More recruits were being considered as we went to press — Steve Dimovski from Western Suburbs, Paul Simic from Broadmeadows and Vlado Bozinovski from Hellas.

"JUST should be strongings to come when it reaches the knockout 8-1 in a practice match. Stosic from Red Star, was sensational, and Ossie Latif scored a hat-trick."

"We've finally got a strike force that looks for the ball, that's willing to take on opponents and shoot at every opportunity. Stosic and Latif look like the best we've had since Buljevic and Zoraja," Belic said.

Belic, 24, is in his eighth senior season with JUST. His first game was against Brisbane City in 1978, but when Zdravko Lujic and Igor Hazzent arrived from Yugoslavia, he lost his place and didn't become a regular until 1980.

He's been quite a heavy smoker and admits that it's affected his fitness but to cope with Sekularac's training demands, he's reduced his smoking by half, and hasn't touched a drink in a month.

"I used to light up after training. Now I'm so tired I can't even look at a smoke," he says.

Belic and goalkeeper Nikitovic have been training seven days a week, while others are getting away with only six nights.

"It's been doing us the world of good," he says. "Players have to be fit to play in this league. Fitness is even more important than skill."

"Last year I was troubled by my Achilles and my ankles. It took me half a season to get

properly fit, then I got injured again and finished up missing half the season."

"Now I'm on the way to being fitter than I've ever been. So are the other players. They don't like it much, having to go every night, but they're not saying much about it. It won't go on indefinitely. Probably another two weeks at this level, and then we'll be off."

"But you see a drastic improvement by JUST. In the past, I'd see players complaining. If the balls weren't played directly to their feet. Against Makedonia there were no complaints at all. Everyone was willing to chase, because they all felt so fit."

"It was a big contrast to our game against Makedonia in the Buffalo Cup because that night, we all had lead in our legs from the hard training. Now the soreness is slowly disappearing as we get more used to this level of training."

"In the past, we never trained the night before a game. But we've been doing that under Seki. I've found it keeps your body in rhythm. You train in the evening, then you're raring to get stuck into a real game the next day."

A good season is way overdue for Belic. He's concerned. "He's been training for so long, as has Seki. I've been saying to myself every year that this would be the big one. You want something to show for your efforts. A little trophy, maybe. But it's been depressing at JUST because we've always been so far down the ladder. It will change this year, mark my words."

Sekularac, star of two World Cup campaigns with Yugoslavia, takes part in ball work and spends a lot of time at training with goalkeepers Nikitovic and Zoran Vlajnic. His brilliant skills remain intact.

"He's unbelievable with the ball," says Belic. "He sells you dummies and it's very hard to read him. He's got great shot with both feet and he can still beat you with the ball in confined areas. The only way to get the ball off him is to kick him in the leg."

Centre back Vukcevic, who looked slow and sluggish in the Buffalo Cup, has improved a lot as his fitness increases. "He was carrying a bit of weight, and he was running in the heat with his track suit on to help him get it down," Belic says.

Simic, a former JUST top scorer who wants to return from Broadmeadows after almost a year away from soccer, also has a lot of weight to shed. He is certain to be signed.

Stosic, 21, is adjusting more quickly than the other two imports.

Belic raves about the boy. "He's got no fitness problem at all; he's very skilful and he likes to take on opponents, just like Ossie Latif. It's very hard to steal the ball from him because he shields it so well. He played outside right against Makedonia, but he cut inside a lot, and he's prepared to shoot."

Belic said that Sekularac was aiming to have

a bigger squad than previously, so that players have to fight for their positions. "It's well known that certain players have been assured of their place, week in, week out, no matter what. Increasing the size of the squad is the



• Vlatko Belic (centre) battles against Graham Honeyman (right) and Vic Bozanic in a game against WA-Hellas.

best thing that could possibly be done," Belic says.

Belic speculates that Sekularac probably wants him to play a more defensive midfield role this year, to balance the more attacking qualities of fellow midfielder Ernie Tapai and Zdravko Lujic on the wing.

Nikitovic will be in goal, Ljube Petrovski at right back, Vukcevic as sweeper, Tom Karic at stopper and Stosic and Latif up front. That takes care of nine positions.

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The soccer player: does exhaustion make him a bad husband and father?

Let's follow Brazil, says Gully boss

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Green Gully president Guy Spiteri agreed with George Cross boss Alf Zahra that State-based super leagues, with national play-offs, will be introduced within two seasons, and that the proposed 14-team NSL will work.

Zahra aired his views in "Soccer Action" last week. Green Gully, like George Cross, has only a minimal chance of being included among the elite 14 next year because of a low score in the past performance criterion.

Green Gully has 23.7 points out of 48 for past performance; George Cross has 22.

"It's a year of marking time for Green Gully," Spiteri said. "We don't believe we've got a chance to get into the 14-team league, and even if we did, it would not be all that certain whether it would be wise to be part of it."

"If the past performances of other clubs are worked out over nine seasons, why don't they do the same for the newer clubs? Green Gully won three State League championships during this period, so we'd rank a lot higher."

"But I can't see the 14-team league lasting long. A



• Guy Spiteri

lot of clubs don't know what they've let themselves in for. When the whole argument started, and Hellas said they wanted a 14-team league, the NSL chairman, Sam Papasavas, warned that it would cost each club a lot of money. He mentioned a figure of about \$40,000 each, but that was almost 12 months ago.

"George has put one over on Melbourne politically in getting guaranteed promotion to the NSL from the NSW State League, while Melbourne has to play off against Brisbane and Adelaide for the other promotion spot. If Melbourne clubs drop out and are not replaced, then the remaining Melbourne clubs will find themselves in insufficient home-town opposition."

"When they were part of

the old 14-team league a few years ago, the clubs complained that their fans were losing interest because they were seeing their team only every second week. That will again be the case."

"The only competition appropriate to Australia is a system like State Leagues with end-of-year national play-offs. Brazil, a big country with a huge soccer following, has exactly such a system, yet we keep looking to the English model which does not suit our conditions."

During the politicising last year, it was suggested at an NSL meeting that the Southern and the two Brisbane teams should switch from the Northern to the Northern Division, increasing the North to 14 clubs and reducing the South to 10. The Southern clubs then would play each other three times instead of twice, to make up the numbers.

Hakkah's Sam Fizman, spokesman for the Sydney club, opposed the move and it was then agreed that the Southern Division would be subsidised \$40,000 by the North as compensation for keeping the Brisbane teams.

"We haven't seen the money yet," Spiteri said. "Our \$16,000 affiliation fee is being billed at the rate of \$2000 a month. I reckon when we've paid \$11,000, we shall tell the league to collect the rest from the Sydney clubs."

"When they were part of



Andrew Dettre

So you think players are overpaid? Maybe. At times I feel even a slob or a devalued drachma is too much for them. But at other, more rational times, I feel they are almost as badly off financially as some of those newly-arrived migrant women in our garment industry sweatshops.

What's more, several wives agree with me. I talked to three at length this week — and they all laughed at my suggestion that Australian soccer's part-time stars are on easy street.

Said Margaret: "At first I used to think back to the UK, that's where we'll make a very nice living, what with J having a job and earning this extra from soccer. I can stay home with the baby."

"But first of all the money isn't all that much — and very often the club is weeks behind with payments. Secondly, hardly anybody cares what we have to put up with to earn this, what kind of disruption it means to our family life. We have to come home late four nights a week, groan a few words to us and falls asleep. I might as well be married to a Zombie."

"Our son is growing up and soon I expect him to ask me about that strange man he sees occasionally at the breakfast table — his father."

Margaret says her husband last year earned "from soccer" about \$16,000 and most of it was "arranged" by the club to be tax-free. "If we had to pay tax as well, I'd say it wasn't worth it at all."

Janet is less militant about it all though she also denied that her husband, an established first-team man, will be a millionaire through soccer.

"We both work," she says, "and three times a week he goes to train, then heads home, cooks dinner and waits for him. It's usually 8.30 or a bit later that he gets home, exhausted."

"During the week we never have the time or the energy to go out in the evenings, not even to visit relatives. This is only possible on Saturdays, if the match is on Sundays."

"I have to help him with many of the chores around the house, like paint maintenance and the garden because, on his own, he wouldn't have the time."

"Money? Well, it's useful, as we are saving for a home and to start a family — but it's not all that much. I don't know exactly but I'd say last year he earned about \$12,000 with bonuses and contracts."

"That's not much less than I earned but in my trade women are paid like slaves, so it's not his \$12,000 that is high but my \$14,000 that is low."

"Is it worth it? I guess so; he would probably play even if they didn't pay him a penny. But if you start to think in terms of hours and sacrifices, then you wonder why some people envy us in the first place and why some

club officials think our husbands are greedy buggers."

The third lady in question, Helen, seemed quite content with her lot.

"I knew what to expect before we got married, so I am not whining. Besides, we need that extra money. Last year he earned around \$10,000

and that was a big help to furnish the house and run the car."

"Yes, the hours involved are long and he deserves every penny he gets."

So what do they really earn? I take the average of the standard established Sydney player's income at \$10,000 a year — though most, I would say, earn less.

This "year" runs from January

Players' wives don't dream of mink and diamonds

to the end of September — nine months.

Most of them train three or

four nights a week, an average of two hours, add travelling time, take the average as three and a half nights of training and travelling — and you have about 10 hours a week.

Then there's the match at

3pm — but you have to count the time from about 12 when a player's concentration on the match zeroes in, when he eats a light lunch, nervously packs his bag and heads for the ground.

After the match they usually

stay together for a while and most players get home at 8pm — after an eight-hour shift.

That makes it a "workin' week" of about 18 hours devoted to soccer — to \$10,000 a year.

Divide the \$10,000 by the 4 weeks (length of season) and you get about \$250 pw. Divide that by the 18 hours and it works out at less than \$1 an hour — which is roughly tradesmen's wages.

What's NOT included in these calculations is the risk of injury and loss of wages an bonuses (plus further loss of wages from the full-time job). And the cost of convenience, if not sacrifice, husband, wife and often children have to make to accommodate a soccer player odd schedule.

NEW ERA OF SUPER STARS?

Europe may scrap its quota systems



LES MURRAY

A MAJOR soccer dilemma, likely to end in a confrontation between European associations and governments, ought to be watched with interest in Australia.

It concerns player movements or the admissible transfer of players from country to country.

The root of the trouble is the Commission of the European Economic Community which has called for unrestricted movement by players between member countries.

Strictly speaking the limits put on clubs within the EEC countries regarding the number of foreign players they are allowed to field is already illegal.

That limit is generally two per club, as in Italy, Spain and West Germany, the countries which wield the largest carrots when it comes to attracting foreign players.

UEFA, the European arm of FIFA, the member associations and European soccer officials in general are alarmed and are fighting the movement tooth and nail.

England is particularly frightened at the prospect of losing the cream of its players. Recently FA secretary Ted Croker led a three-man delegation to Whitehall to plead the case with the British government and ask for its support.

They are not likely to get it and neither are other associations with similar lobbies with their governments although that seems to be the last chance to decide the issue.

UEFA has responded directly with the EEC Commission but gave up, suggesting to its member associations that they should all individually lobby with their own governments.

UEFA says unrestricted player movement between countries would cause chaos in football.

The EEC won't accept that and frankly why should it?

The law in all EEC countries is that a citizen of one country can be employed in another country without restriction.

If you're British you don't, in other words, need a work permit to be employed in Italy and vice versa.

So why should soccer players be different? Why should a footballer be denied a job with a foreign club if that club wants to employ him when an engineer, or an au-pair girl, or a truck driver doesn't?

The issue of foreign players and their quotas has been a matter of contention since the early '60s when there were no quotas and indeed some clubs had more foreigners than natives playing for them.

The import mania was such that it even resulted in the comical dual, or even triple, nationality status of some players.

Laszlo Kubala, for instance, played for Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Spain; Ferenc Puskas for Hungary and Spain; Juan Schiaffino for Uruguay and Italy; Omar Sivori for Argentina and Italy. And so on.

Then came the ruling that no player who had played for a country shall be eligible to play for another, and the quota system which resulted from the fear that foreigners were filling up the places of locals and that the development of home talent was hindered by their presence.

It was much like the fear in Australia which now sees us on the other side of the coin where good overseas talent is being denied us in preference to, in many cases, home-bred mediocrities.

In fact, for long in Europe there was no even a quota system. Spain and Italy completely closed their doors and there were no Schuslers, Zicos, Platini and Maradonas to be seen.

I have always been a fan of players from other countries. Their migration was counter-productive to the cause of nurturing home talent.

No Sivoris, Puskases or Di Stefano mean no superstars to look up to and learn from. I also meant excellence was unachievable with money. Clubs would have to use more mediocre, more workmanlike players to get their results.

Using workmanlike players means you cannot rely on individual brilliance for results. It means you have to rely more on tactics than technique. And that means you are forced to devise whatever tactics it takes to win or avoid losing.

And so the paranoia about foreigners probably had a hand in the development of negativeism and percentage football. And that does more to restrict the development of natural talent than anything.

But back to Europe's present predicament. If the EEC Commission wins its case, and I have the power to do so, Europe will certainly have its problems.

Heaven help the poorer clubs, for the richer ones would probably top the best players.

For football as a whole, I don't know.

The richer clubs would also end up with better teams, teams of stars and individual Europe has not seen since the '50s.

There would be a greater need for play excellence, a higher demand for match-winning stars. Logically that should produce better players.

Australia, not being an EEC nation, would appear to be unaffected.

But it might be.

If European clubs are forced to drop their quotas altogether it means they may be able to sign foreigners, with work permits, from anywhere.

Including Australia!

And, with a Europe under a free market system where demand will eventually outstrip supply, Australia would become one more source of talent.

There may be more Crinos and Patikases going west.

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Written by Kenny Roberts, Massachusetts United Captain.

new balance

Cumming holds out

Green Gully's Tommy Cummings still has not signed a new contract and is available for a \$10,000 transfer fee.

However, a new right-winger, Peter Reynolds from Scottish club Motherwell, will join Green Gully soon along with Scott Fraser, a sweeper or midfielder from Berwick Rangers, who used to play for Rangers.

The import mania was such that it even resulted in the comical dual, or even triple, nationality status of some players.

Laszlo Kubala, for instance, played for Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Spain; Ferenc Puskas for Hungary and Spain; Juan Schiaffino for Uruguay and Italy; Omar Sivori for Argentina and Italy. And so on.

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World Cup count-down: No. 7-NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland will appear in World Cup finals for the third time.

In 1958 (after disposing of Italy in the qualifying rounds), it beat Czechoslovakia twice and drew with top holder West Germany, while in 1982, saw the Irish finish above host Spain and the highly-rated Yugoslavs to reach the second stage. Little wonder then that Northern Ireland is recognised as the most persistent of international football's giant-killers.

Great hopes exist for the Irish to collect another scalp or two in Mexico. Perhaps expectations are too high.

Northern Ireland opens its campaign in Guadalajara against an Algerian team far more familiar with the inevitably hot climate.

The Irishmen are notoriously vulnerable when facing opponents who, on paper, appear weaker (Finland beat them in the qualifying rounds, whereas Turkey ended aspirations during the last European Championship) and the north Africans are fully capable of creating a surprise on June 3.

Four days later, Northern Ireland meets a Spanish side surely intent upon gaining revenge for the 1-0 defeat suffered at Valencia in 1982 and the Group D programme is completed with a game against tourney favorite Brazil on June 12.

Northern Ireland's greatest strength is an amazing team spirit, strong enough to turn a team composed largely of undistinguished English League professionals into a combination of strength, determination, fire and not a little flair.

That spirit enabled the Irish to come through the crucial climax of their qualifying round without the aid of injured stal-

JIM PLATT (Coleraine). In

How they got there

European Group Three: v Finland 0-1 (away), 2-1 (home); v Romania 3-2 (home), 1-0 (away); v England 0-1 (home), 0-0 (away); v Turkey 2-1 (home), 0-0 (away).



• Pat Jennings

PAT SET FOR RECORD

By PAUL MOON

waris John McLellan, Martin O'Neill and Billy Hamilton. At the time of writing, the fitness of this trio was still in doubt.

However, evergreen Pat Jennings appears certain to be in Mexico, by then probably the most capped player in international soccer history.

Every neutral will hope he caps off a remarkable career by helping write another chapter in the Irish giant-killer saga.

Although Northern Ireland ranks among the World Cup's "little people", there is nothing small about Norman Whiteside — either in physique or ability.

Whiteside made an enormous impression as a 17-year-old in Spain and subsequently has become one of the superstars of English domestic soccer. Now comes an opportunity to enhance his reputation worldwide.

Possible Squads

PAT JENNINGS (Tottenham Hotspur). One of the most popular figures in modern international soccer, 41 on June 12 (when Northern Ireland meet Brazil in Mexico), he became a professional in 1963 upon leaving home town amateur club Newry Town to join Watford. Won FA Cup winners' medals at Arsenal and Tottenham, plus a UEFA Cup winners' memento with the latter, but it is his feats for Northern Ireland which have assured him of a place in world football folklore. Beat Dino Zoff's world record for international appearances by a goalkeeper when winning his 113th cap against England in November and should overtake Bjorn Rogneby's 115 game total before the finals start.

JIMMY NICHOLL (West Bromwich Albion). A familiar flame-haired figure in the defence of Manchester United throughout the late 1970s, before moving, in turn, to Toronto, Blizzard, Sunderland, Glasgow Rangers and West Bromwich Albion.

JOHN O'NEILL (Leicester City). A utility defender who moved to Leicester from home town amateur club Derry Athletic in 1979 shortly after graduating from university. Made only a substitute's appearance (against France) during the last World Cup finals, but likely

Jennings' shadow since making Northern Ireland debut in 1976, but has still collected over 20 caps when the great man was unavailable through club commitments or injuries.

GEORGE DUNLOP (Linfield). Likeliest to succeed Jennings and Platt when they retire, he won his first senior cap in 1985, three years after travelling to Spain as third-string goalkeeper.

MAL DONAGHY (Luton Town). Equally able at left back, right back, centre back or in midfield, but originally a goalkeeper with his first club — the Post Office Social Club. After playing for other minor Irish clubs Croom, Albion and Larne, he moved across the Irish Sea to join Luton in 1978.

ALLAN MCDONALD (Queen's Park Rangers). The revelation of the qualifying round campaign, being superb against both Romania (on his senior international debut) and England.

BERNARD McNALLY (Shrewsbury Town). A fringe member of the squad, who had yet to make an international debut at the beginning of this year. Born in England but eligible to play with the emerald green jersey by virtue of having an Irish father. Religious convictions forbid him from playing on Sundays, which could create problems if he breaks into the team and Ireland reaches the second stage of the finals.

PAUL RAMSEY (Leicester City). Ultra-competitive mid-fielder-cum-defender who joined Leicester from Derry Athletic in 1980 and first don-



• Northern Ireland: Jennings, C. Nicholl, McLellan, Donaghy, McCreery, Hamilton, Whiteside, Armstrong, J. Nicholl, McIlroy, M. O'Neill.

to experience more activity this time.

JOHN McCLELLAND (Watford). Missed business end of World Cup qualifiers, being sidelined by a broken toe. He was a great success in Spain four years ago, after rising from obscurity (Portadown, Cardiff City, Bangor City and Mansfield Town) to captain Glasgow Rangers. His \$450,000 transfer to Watford two years ago was a major factor in that club's success in fighting against relegation.

MARTIN O'NEILL (Notts County). Out of action for over a year with a knee injury, this terrier of a midfielder will travel to Mexico as the squad's commercial manager if unable to regain full fitness. Won a string of domestic and European honors during 10 years at Nottingham Forest (1971-81), before moving to Norwich City, then Notts County. Begun his career with Derry City.

GERRY ARMSTRONG (West Bromwich Albion). Striker with good all-round skills who equalled Joe Bambrick's long-standing Irish international goalscoring record of 12 when netting against Finland in November, 1984. One of the few who perform far better for their country than club, he was voted Britain's best performer at the last World Cup finals.

COLIN CLARKE (Bournemouth). Plucked from English League Division Three for Ireland's qualifying round squad — he is a lively striker. Despite being only 23, has played for four other clubs — Gillingham, Ipswich Town (no first team appearance), Peterborough United and Tramore Rovers.

NIGEL WORTHINGTON (Sheffield Wednesday). Moved across the Irish Sea to Notts County in a \$140,000 transfer during 1981, shortly after being named Ireland's Young Player of the Year, and a \$160,000 brought him to Sheffield Wednesday in 1984.

NOEL BROTHERTON (Blackburn Rovers). A prematurely balding, 29-year-old whose pace and ball control made him a potential match-winner, either as winger or midfield. Brilliant throughout Northern Ireland's 1980 British Championship triumph, he toured Australia in the same year. After making just one league appearance for his original club, Tottenham Hotspur, he joined Blackburn in

1977 and has subsequently become one of the most popular individuals in the history of that famous club.

DAVID McCREEERY (Newcastle United). A human dynamo of a midfielder who started his senior international career 10 years ago and gained his 50th senior cap in the crucial game at Bucharest. Previously with Manchester United, Queen's Park Rangers and Tulsa Roughnecks (USA), he has also represented Northern Ireland at schoolboys, youth and under 21 levels.

SAMMY McILROY (Manchester City). Another squad veteran (31 years of age with over 80 caps — a record for an Irish outfield player). Spent 10 years at Manchester United, before moving to Stoke City in 1981, but is now back in Manchester — at City.

JIMMY QUINN (Blackburn Rovers). Assured of a special place in Irish World Cup history as a result of his crucial goal in Bucharest, yet only three years ago was playing in the semi-professional Cheshire League. After leaving Oswestry Town, he spent a season with Swindon Town, before a \$65,000 transfer took the enthusiastic striker to Blackburn Rovers, and a long stint on the substitutes' bench before eventually winning a place in the English Second Division club's starting line up.

IAN STEWART (Newcastle United). An extrovert character who has deserved his best performances for Northern Ireland, he joined Newcastle

from Queen's Park Rangers in a \$300,000 transfer.

NORMAN WHITESIDE (Manchester United). Made a sensational impact in 1982, after travelling to Spain as an uncapped 17-year-old. Both the youngest player to appear in the World Cup finals and youngest to score in the FA Cup final, he was converted from striker to midfielder last season.

STEVE PENNEY (Brighton). Very promising young striker who has made rapid strides since Brighton paid Ballymena United \$60,000 for him late in 1982.

BILLY HAMILTON (Oxford United). Missed most of the 1985 — 86 English League campaign with a knee injury, but his proven record at international level should assure him a place in the squad if fitness is regained. A robust, six-foot striker who served Linfield, Queen's Park Rangers and Burnley before moving to Oxford in a \$160,000 transfer immediately before United's 1984 — 85 Second Division championship-winning campaign.

BILLY BINGHAM (Coach). A craftsman of a winger with Glenitoran, Sunderland, Luton Town, Everton, Port Vale and Northern Ireland (56 caps — including 5 wins during 1980 World Cup finals). As a coach, he served Southport, Plymouth Argyle, Greece, Northern Ireland (1967 — 1971), Everton and Mansfield Town, before starting a second stint in charge of the Irish national team in 1980.

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• Marijan Kovacic

Jurin's goal makes up for stars' bad night



NSW AMPOL CUP



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SYDNEY CROATIA 1 (Jurin 37th) **INTER-MONARO 0**, NSW Ampol Cup final at St. George Stadium. Crowd 9027. Referee: G. Power 8. Cautions: Walsh (IM).
—
SYDNEY CROATIA: Watson 7 — Rezo 7, M. Kovacic 10, Rozic 8, Jennings 7, Clinch 6, Saver 6, Odzakov 5 (Kero 64th) — Jurin 7, Arnold 5, Dragicevic 5. Coach: Ivan Radojčić.
INTER-MONARO: Hoszowski 7 — Tuilawa 7, Budini 8, Ambrosio 7, Williams 5 — Walsh 5 (Pernovic 67th), Carbone 8, Wotherspoon 5 — Trajanovski 5, Winn 5 (D'adario 80th), Giampaolo 6. Coach: Frank Macarone.

WHAT A YAWN!

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 (Phillips 58th)
MELITA EAGLES 0, play-off for third place at St George Stadium. Referee: Richard Lorenc 9. Cautions: Lambropoulos, Bourke.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: London 7 — Phillips 7, Daskos 7, Paskovics 7, Lambropoulos 6 (Ropers 46th — 6), Bourke 5, Raskopoulos 6, Soper (60th Estavillo) — Brandt 5, Stevenson 5, Kalantzis 6.

MELITA EAGLES: Pupovac 7 — McCoy 7, McCausland 7, Wilson 8, Williams 7 — Stone 6 (Hassan 67th), Soper 6 (D'adario 70th), Dalton 5, Foxman 5, Meerbach 6 (Callahan 78th).

"We will be known as Santa Eagles after this game," quipped Kenny Wilson, Melita's centre back, after his team had gone down to Sydney Olympic.

Despite Pupovac, Melita's young goalkeeper, threw a short pass to a defender who in turn found Biroul Serbas some 27 metres from Melita's goal line. Gary Phillips pinched the ball and lobbed it over the stranded Pupovac. That was the goal which separated the two sides at the end of the most boring match so far this year.

Treated by both teams as a mere workout, it was

played at a pedestrian pace, with Melita showing far more initiative.

During the first 45 minutes, yawns all over the ground failed to make an impression on the 22 players. Olympic lacked zip and struggled against Melita's youthful side. Bourke, Raskopoulos and Soper did not make a formidable midfield combination and I am sure that Manfred Schaefer has learned from this experiment.

Vicente Estavillo came on the park after an injury to Marshall Soper but failed to stamp his authority on the already disjointed Olympic machine.

At the other end, Melita enjoyed a fair amount of possession and should have netted at least three times. With the scoreline 1-0 to Olympic, Melita created opportunities which should not have been missed!

Olympic, apart from that gift goal, created next to nothing, with the best chance going to Stuart Stevenson with 10 minutes remaining but his volley missed by 20 metres!

Despite losing, Melita retained its pride. Farrugia, Griffiths, Laing and Farnsworth sat on the sideline with injuries and one might suggest that those four would have made an awful amount of difference.

An enterprising display by Marijan Kovacic and superb finishing by Željko Jurin highlighted the Ampol Cup final, won by the slenderest of margins by Croatia.

Forced to win by a lot more goals, Croatia never came to grips with the windy conditions, nor its stubborn opponents from Queanbeyan.

Zarko Odzakov, who had been tipped to mastermind Croatia's success in the final, had an off day and was replaced by John Kero midway through the second half.

Wally Savor and Shane Clinch never got out of first gear, while Graham Arnold and Emili Dragicevic took a "night off".

However, its stubborn and well-organised defence and some enterprising runs by Jurin more than made up for a general shortage of creativity. The star or Croatia was Marijan Kovacic.

The man who for so long promised so much but had never come an inch short of his big time, was ahead of most of the players like Giampaolo, Odzakov and Radojčić. His defence, midfield and attack almost non-stop and did not make a single mistake for the entire 90 minutes.

Drago Rezo at full back for Croatia put a stop to Giampaolo's ambition, while Radojčić deserves praise for his great anticipation.

However, with all due respect to his fine display, it was difficult to understand the second half tactics of Croatia. With only a one-goal advantage, Croatia sat back and allowed Inter Monaro to dominate play during the second period.

With a more enterprising attitude, I feel Inter Monaro could have done better. But with a game which provided Inter with one step forward and two steps back, it was obvious that the visitors from Queanbeyan were not going to score.

So much good work was done by Attilo Carbone and Ricky Budini. Alas, Steve Winn (once again), Victor Trajanovski and Ian Wotherspoon were out of touch and that is just too much of a start for a team like Grange.

Its determination to sit back and play counter-attacking football almost paid off a few times for Croatia's shrewd coach. And in each of the counter-attacking raids, Croatia relied on the long-legged, fast-running Željko Jurin.

He provided Shane Clinch with a chance in the 68th but Clinch headed over the bar. He was electrifying in the 81st, running for almost 40 metres and combatting some four to five players but his pass, which found Dragicevic, was in vain — the final shot going wide.

Jurin missed a fine opportunity in the 72nd after four of Croatia's players had been involved in a great move. Jurin hit his shot high and handsome, metres over the bar.

A header by Dragicevic in the 70th was saved by Hoszowski while Kero shot wide from a good position close to the end-line.

For Inter Monaro a shot by Wotherspoon was smothered. Wally Savor in the 51st, but the only chance that came Inter's way was in the 80th minute. For once, Giampaolo turned Rezo and came to the by-line before cutting his cross back for Wotherspoon, metres away from the line, but ever alert Rezo and Kovacic were on the spot to make sure nothing came of it.

And the winning goal: Wally Savor pushed the ball through for Jurin in the 37th. For a moment it looked as if Jurin had gone too wide and could not do much with the angle getting tighter and tighter. But with Hoszowski off his line, Jurin was able to squeeze his shot past the advancing keeper to give Croatia the Cup.

Diamataris powers Port



• Former Australian international and current player coach of Essendon Triestina Billy Vojteček breaks away from West Brunswick's Vasalla during last weekend's Victorian League Cup. Picture: CARMELO BAZZANO

FERN TREE GULLY 1 (Steenbergen 85th) **PORT MELBOURNE 2** (Diamataris 48th, 59th) Victorian League Cup match at Knox Park, Saturday.

FERN TREE GULLY: Bailey 7, Vaughan 7, Munro 7, Sinclair 7, Thom 8, Rigby 7, Whitehead 6, Steenbergen 7, Sullivan 6, Ireson 6.

PORT MELB: Dossis 7, Kourialis 7, Sismani 8, Akratidis 8, Koutalas 8, Kampanis 8, Giannidis 6, Tassis 7, Diamataris 8, Kourakis 7, Michalakopoulos 6.

Fern Tree Gully can be excused for asking: What do you have to do to win a game? Once again, their chances were being begged and Gully also had 25 unproductive corners and seven shots saved by the woodwork.

Take nothing away from Port though. It fought out the game to gain a draw and showed desperation and teamwork which surely will change last year's image of being a chopping block for opposition teams.

Port hit the front when Diamataris received a pin-point cross from Karipidis, chested it down and hammered the ball past a hapless Stenhouse.

In the second half Gully

came out with all guns firing.

Chances were created and missed but it ended just a matter of time before Gully would qualify. But Diamataris put paid to that when he received the ball on the half-way line. With most Gully players in the forward line looking for the equaliser, Diamataris rounded Munro, the only defender in sight, then went past the keeper and slotted home his second.

Billy kept up its barrage. Port defended strongly and kept Gully out until Steenbergen pulled one back with five minutes to go.

KNOX CITY 1 (Nelson 68th) **NUNAWADING CITY 2** (Moyle 18th, Mallett 104th) after extra time: Victorian League Cup match at Elgan Lee Reserve, Saturday.

KNOX CITY: Long 8, Sais 8, Short (McDaid 13), Brindle, Turner, Holmes, Pete, Nelson, Tunstall, Phillips, Jones, Coach: Kelly. **NUNAWADING CITY:** Madjer, Brown, Barker (Groenewald 45), Charavelis, McCombe, Huston, Mallett, Bastasin (Roggero 74), Moyle, Nelles, Middlemass, Coles, Coach: J. Morris.

Philippe picked up the ball 25 metres out in the 15th minute and unleashed a tremendous shot that was goal-bound. Madjer made a brilliant one-handed save to force a corner.

Three minutes later, Nunawading took the lead. Bastasin broke clear but his shot was parried by Long. The ball rebounded to Bastasin who squared it across the face of goal to Moyle and he side-footed.

ESSENDON TRIESTINA 2 (Favata 6, Dilizzo 6, Merjavi 6, Giampaolo 6, Musella 6, Sabidussi 6, Delporto 6, Gadsby 6, Krsevan 6, Smith 6, Philips 6, Johnsen 6, Skromlik 6, Donnelly 6, Spencer 6, Subis 6, Dapens 6, Luca 6, Widya 6)

MORABBIN: O'Connell, Morgan, Dounias, Merjavi, Laverty, Senese, Calladine, Marin, Thomas, Senese, Bris Reserves Harris.

Laverty, Barclay

Best Players — D'ong Patrick Delaney, Steve Gadsby, Dave Spencer

Dandenong: City (None 50th, D'ong 50th, Spencer 60th) **WEST BRUNSWICK 0** (None 50th, D'ong 50th, Spencer 60th)

Dandenong: has three top players on the line — Paul Luca (midfield) and Jim Dailey (midfield) — player/coach — resting injury.

Moorabbin: has eliminated Kelor, last year's finalists (defeated by Melb on penalties)



• Essendon Triestina, back row: Alex Fantoma, Tony Mainenti, Carlo Delporto, Michael Giacomì, Origlio Grbac, Dario Zavattiero, Chris Powell, Billy Vojteček (player coach), Michael Bonadio. Front: Frank Musselli, Carlo Sabidussi, Manual Manini, Harry Diliza, John Sorani, Joe Morkow. Picture: CARMELO BAZZANO

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Victorian State League club Morwell Falcons was expected to make a joint bid for striker Peter Verechia and midfielder Andre Huguenin, but we were present. We understand that Verechia has agreed terms with Morwell. Huguenin is listed at \$6,000, even though he joined Box Hill as a free player in 1982.

National Cup changes

The following amendments have been made to the first round of the National Cup:

Green Gully v Croydon now at Olympic Park on the evening of March 26.

Juventus v Croatia and Heidelberg v Makedonia double-header re-scheduled from Sunday March 23, to Saturday night March 22.

Springvale-Moorabbin final

Springvale City Cup results: Springvale City "A" (D'Amico) 5, Springvale United 0, Moorabbin City 3 (Stevens, Senese, Crivari 9). The grand-final between Springvale City "A" and Moorabbin City will be played tomorrow (Thursday) at Ross Reserve, Memorial Drive, Noble Park, at 7.30 pm.

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• Durakovic • Bozinovski

Durakovic to JUST?

Brunswick Juventus utility player Mehmet Durakovic is believed to be seeking a transfer to Footscray JUST. And Vlado Bozinovski is set to join from Hellas after impressing in trial games.

Durakovic was at Schintler Reserve last Sunday, talking to JUST officials during a practice match against Frankston Pines, which JUST won 2-0.

Durakovic, who was a team-mate of Mike Petersen, Andrew Zinni, Peter Tsolakis, Aki Kotzamichalis and Joe Palatsides at Port Melbourne, had a season with Buducnost when his family returned for a while to Yugoslavia.

His father long has been a JUST supporter.

Durakovic, who was included in Juventus's senior team late last year because senior players were out injured, scored nine goals for Juventus's youth team while playing as centre back.

Because Juventus has added John Yzendoorn and Jamie Paton to its squad, Durakovic is worried that he will lose his place in the team.

He is an extremely talented player, particularly at right back, although he also can play as stopper or in midfield.

Paul Simic, continuing his impressive comeback, and Ernie Tapai, scored JUST's goals against Frankston Pines, whose goal-keeper Dennis Boland (ex-JUST) had made up his mind to leave the team.

Star striker Vlado Stosic was injured and had to be replaced by Bill Lazopoulos in the 21st minute, but the injury is not serious and he'll be OK for the National Cup match against George Cross on March 23.

JUST's line-up: Nikolic — Karic, Vukcevic, Belic, Petrovski — Tapai, Bozinovski, Lujic — Stosic (Lazopoulos 21st), Simic (Nedeljkovic 76th), Latif.

Best players: Karic, Bozinovski, Latif, Belic.



More goals for Brown

Doug Brown continues to show his goalscoring form of old, notching two in SM-Hellas's 3-0 victory over Western Suburbs in practice match at Ralph Street, Sunshine, last Sunday.

Charlie Egan scored the other goal, and Alan Davidson did well in his first game since rejoining Hellas from Nottingham Forest.

Best players were Egan, Brown, Davidson, and Arthur Xanthopoulos.

Hellas's other results this year have been:

v West Adelaide Hellas 3-2 (friendly), goals: Egan 2, Brown.

v Melbourne Croatia 1-2, goal McDowell.

v Western Suburbs 0-1.

v Green Gully 1-1, McDowell.

v Juventus 0-0.

v Morell Falcons 0-2.

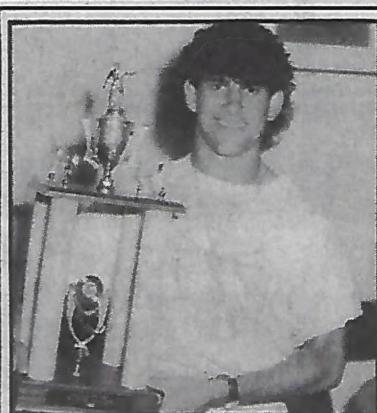
v Olympia (Tas) 3-0, Brown 2, McDowell.

Greener to Waverley

Waverley City has signed former Springvale City player-coach Ian Greener, who previously was a striker with Wilhelmina.

Greener is the first recruit signed by new Waverley coach Wally Stevenson who still is on the lookout for players.

He can be contacted after hours on (03) 561 4621.



• Heidelberg's 5ft. 2ins. winger Peter Tsolakis won the Buffalo Cup best player award. Picture: LES SHORROCK

Little guy with a big heart

He is a product of Port Melbourne, a club renowned for breeding champions. His former team-mates include Andrew Zinni, Mehmet Durakovic, Joe Palatsides and Socceroo Mike Petersen who are now at Juventus, and Croatia's Aki Kotzamichalis who, at 6ft. 5 ins, is the tallest player in Victorian soccer!

But the name Tsolakis is more synonymous with South Melbourne Hellas than with Port Melbourne or Heidelberg. Peter's father, Manny, was the right winger of the Hellas team that won its first championship, in 1962. John Margaritis, now Hellas's coach, was among Manny's team-mates.

"Dad's been there, he's done that," says Peter. "I've learned a real lot from him everyday, we'd be out at the park, playing together. After each game, he'd tell me what I was doing wrong and correct me."

But there are no divided loyalties when Heidelberg meets Hellas. "Dad's a Heidelberg man through and through now," says Peter. "And we have former Hellas players, George Christopoulos and Theo Semelidis who try that much harder every time we play in the big Greek derby."

Opposing full backs try to intimidate Tsolakis, but tough talk doesn't put him off, and most of the free kicks go his way. "Peter Lewis of Juventus told me during the NSL finals last year that he'd break my leg. I said: 'OK, go for it,' and walked away. During the game, you're enemies, but afterwards Peter was the first to shake my hand. He's a good guy. But he's also been my toughest opponent, along with Mark Brown of Croydon."

Tsolakis, who is doing an accountancy course at Prahran College after being unemployed in 1985, also praised those who vied with him in the Buffalo Gold Cup best player voting.

"Some one did really well, Steve Gojevic of Croatia is one, high-table Tapai of Footscray JUST is a top player and Steve Marley of Heidelberg also had a top series. He's helped me a lot with passes down the left wing," Tsolakis says.

After losing star defender Charlie Yankos and strikers Stuart Stevenson and Steve Winn, Heidelberg was not expected to reach the final.

But it will be a big year for Heidelberg, according to Tsolakis. "We've introduced Alan Hunter, Andy Higgins and Chris Ketsakidis as new players in the team, and Paul Tzintzis is back after a year's absence, so once we all get used to playing together, we'll be a definite contender for the NSL finals," Tsolakis said.



• The look on Steve Gojevic's face hides the fact that Melbourne Croatia just has won the 1986 Buffalo Gold Cup. Picture: LES SHORROCK

Revenge for Croatia but controversy over winning goal

MELBOURNE CROATIA 2 (Campbell 31st, Bonacic 68th)
HEIDELBERG ALEXANDER 1 (Hunter penalty 43rd). Buffalo Gold Cup final at Olympic Park, Saturday night. Crowd: about 10,000. Cautions: Campbell, Gojevic, Deankovic, McIntosh (MC); Kotsakidis, Oliver (Heid). Referee: Chris Bambridge 5.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Runje 8 — Deankovic 8, McIntosh 7, Curcio 7, Hannah 8 — Biskic 8, Campbell 7, Gojevic 7 (Redmond 80th), Bonacic 8 — Ward 6, Todoric 6 (Markovic 84th); Coach: Miron Bleiberg.

HEIDELBERG ALEXANDER: Oliver 9 — McKie 8, Hunter 7, Christopoulos 7 (in), Valentine 41st, 5) Marley 8 — Semelidis 7, Higgins 6, Kotsakidis 3 (Delegaines 77th); Metaxas 6, Tzintzis 7 (Angle 87th); Coach: Brian Garvey.

Croatia avenged its 5-1 drubbing by Heidelberg in last year's Buffalo Gold Cup final but this match was marred by two goals that should not have been awarded.

Croatia's Tony Curcio clearly was pushed in the back by Heidelberg's Paul Tzintzis just before Curcio tripped Tzintzis and Heidelberg was awarded a penalty from which it levelled the scores in the 43rd minute.

The winning goal from Croatia came in the 68th minute and before Luke Bonacic nabbed it, big Davie McIntosh impeded Heidelberg goalie Jeff Oliver when they challenged for a high ball.

Back to the Curcio-Tzintzis incident. Heidelberg was under pressure and was belting the ball clear. Once such clearance, a mighty one at that, by Andy Higgins, sent the ball sailing downfield. Curcio was in control of the situation. Tzintzis was pushed by elbow to the back. Curcio then spun around and nailed Tzintzis. Referee Chris Bambridge had been understandably caught well out of position by Higgins' hefty clearance. He obviously didn't see Tzintzis' push but, sprinting at full pace, Bambridge was there in time to view Curcio's trip.

Now on to the winning goal.

Davor Todoric sent over an inswinging corner. Gary Ward headed on, sending the ball into the teeth of the Heidelberg goal. Oliver jumped with McIntosh but wasn't even able to effect a clean punch and from my vantage point, appeared to be hindered in his attempt to attack the ball, which fell at the feet of Bonacic who slammed it from point blank range. The goal stood when a free kick to Heidelberg should have been awarded.

Croatia coach Miron Bleiberg dropped Robert Markovic, the second highest scorer in the Buffalo Gold Cup, and used Todoric alongside Ward in the starting line-up. Todoric's penchant for a wide attacking role on the left found him in such a position often but Croatia still was able to get midfielders forward to support Ward.

Heidelberg didn't have many tactical teasers as he had done in the semi-final against George Cross. Dragos Deankovic was back on his favorite right side as was Josip Biskic. Jim Campbell and Steve Gojevic were in central midfield spots with Bonacic on the left. Heidelberg's line-up, predictably, was unchanged with George Christopoulos sweeping up, Alan Hunter stopper, Higgins in a central midfield berth with John Tzintzis, Tzintzis and Peter Tsolakis up front.

Tsolakis was presented with his trophy as the competition's best player then it was down to business and Deankovic hardly let little Tsolakis get a sniff of the ball in the first half.

In the 2nd minute, Josip Biskic's corner in the near post was headed on into the side netting by Ward and in the 5th minute Oliver was sliding about at the near post trying to cover a Campbell shot which had been deflected. A minute later Oliver was in agony.

He dropped a high ball and Bonacic tried to get a foot to it. Oliver recovered and fumbled the ball again. Bonacic tried to get a foot to it again but only succeeded in connecting with Oliver.

The Heidelberg goalie lay motionless on the ground as play continued. Bambridge realised that Oliver was hurt so he stopped play and on came the trainer. A glance at the Heidelberg team sheet revealed that five reserves were listed. Not one of them was a goalkeeper and that's bad organisation any way you look at it.

Fortunately for Heidelberg, Oliver was able to continue.

Heidelberg's first clear strike at goal came in the 10th minute. John Metaxas won the ball on the right of the Croatia area and lobbed it to the far post. Tzintzis had escaped his marker but headed just wide.

Oliver came charging out of his area and slid down to belt the ball clear just before Ward could get a touch to a superb through ball by Gojevic in the 16th minute and two minutes later Heidelberg fans were jumping out of their seats claiming that Tzintzis should have been awarded a penalty.

Tzintzis had turned Bambridge's upper body and monitored into the Croatia area. McIntosh came across to confront him. Tzintzis pushed the ball too far forward then threw himself across McIntosh's outstretched leg but Bambridge wasn't fooled, correctly waving play on.

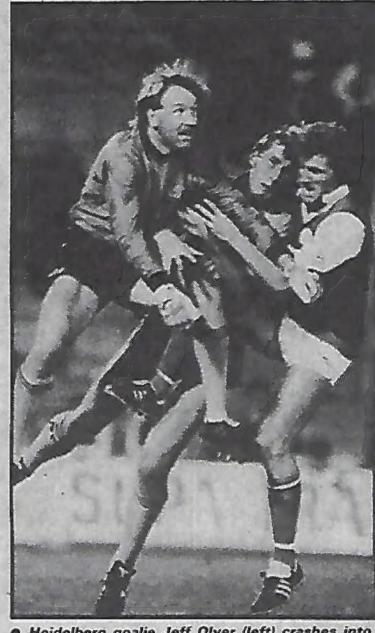
In the 23rd minute Todoric, what a sweet left foot he has, was in an inswinging corner which was headed over by Ward at the near post.

In the 25th minute, Heidelberg strung together a fine move. Christopoulos played the ball forward to Hunter on the left. Hunter played a long ball to the feet of Tsolakis whose first time lay-off put Metaxas in possession. Metaxas tried a long shot. The ball was deflected to the far post and Mirko Runje was alert enough to race off his line and get it before Tzintzis.

Oliver got down well to hold a firm, low shot from Biskic in the 26th minute. In the 29th minute, Biskic could have set up

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

**Man of the match:
JEFF OLIVER
(Heidelberg)**



• Heidelberg goalie Jeff Oliver (left) crashes into team mate Andy Higgins and Melbourne Croatia's Gary Ward (right) after fistig the ball clear. Picture: LES SHORROCK

Todoric on the left but decided to shoot instead, sending the ball well wide. Two minutes later, Croatia struck.

Bonacic took a free kick on the left, just over the halfway line. He knocked it long to Gojevic who headed on to Ward. The leading scorer in the Buffalo Gold Cup did well to create room for a shot. Oliver had it covered until it struck a Heidelberg defender and lobbed over his head. Even so, Oliver recovered well only to tip the ball on to the bar. Bambridge charged in, slid down, and tucked it away.

Bonacic played a superb ball to Gojevic in the 34th minute. Gojevic lost possession but battled well to win the ball back. He then struck a low shot on the turn but Oliver was down in a flat position and held the ball safe.

Christopoulos held the ball far too long in the 36th minute. He allowed Ward to close him down, block Christopoulos' attempted long ball and break toward the Heidelberg goal. Fortunately for Christopoulos, Ian Krickle had read the situation well, coming in and thumping the ball out for a throw-in.

Croatia should have gone further ahead in the 39th minute. Deankovic crossed from the right. Bonacic headed firmly but not well directed enough. Nevertheless, the ball fell to Ward at the far post. Oliver confronted Ward who cleverly chipped it past the Heidelberg goal, only to see Gojevic heading over with the goal at his mercy.

Christopoulos limped off for treatment in the 40th minute. Semelidis dropped back to sweeper for a couple of minutes but when it became clear that Christopoulos couldn't continue on came Mick Valentine, recently back in favor at Heidelberg. Valentine went to the right side of midfield. Semelidis switched to a central midfield role. Higgins dropped back to stopper. Hunter took over as sweeper.

Two minutes were left before half time when Heidelberg gained its penalty. Hunter took it and converted with ease. The scoreline read 1-1, even though Croatia had created more chances.

Three minutes into the second half, Biskic cut the ball back from the right of the Heidelberg area. Campbell was charging in, shaping for a first time shot but Ward, with his back to goal, controlled the ball before Campbell could get there. Ward spun around and shot but the ball was deflected over.

Oliver was well positioned to control a dipping Deankovic volley in the 54th minute. Deankovic and Biskic, whose combinations are well known, had played a neat one-two on the right.

Hunter, who gets caught in possession a bit too much for my liking, was caught in the 56th minute. Todoric slipped the ball to Ward on the left of the Heidelberg area but Ward rushed his shot, sending the ball sailing well over the bar.

Ward was on a diagonal run toward the near post, steered a Biskic pass in on the 65th minute, three minutes before Croatia's controversial winning goal.

But Croatia should have been awarded a penalty in the 76th minute. Oliver had raced out of his area to head the ball clear. It came back just quickly. Todoric was about to shoot when he was hacked down from behind. Bambridge waved play on, leaving Todoric to limp off for treatment.

Markovic replaced Todoric in the 84th minute. A minute later Markovic had his first touch and should have scored. Bonacic won the ball from Steve Marley, Heidelberg's last defender, positioned just inside Heidelberg's attacking half. Markovic broke from the halfway line but from just outside the Heidelberg area, pushed the ball too far forward, allowing Oliver to thump it clear.

In the 87th minute, Heidelberg coach Brian Garvey took off his best forward, Tzintzis; and put on Joe Angele, essentially a central defender. Goodness knows why.

It was too late anyway.



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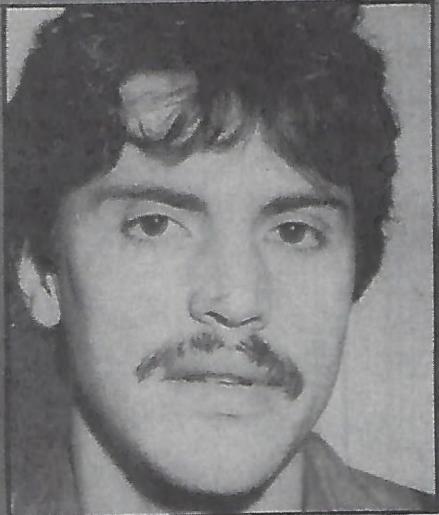
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"1986 — THE YEAR



HOME

Round 2, April 6: v Brisbane Lions. Round 4, April 20: v Adelaide City Juventus. Round 7, May 18: v Brunswick Juventus. Round 8, May 25: v Melbourne Croatia. Round 10, June 15: v George Cross. Round 11, June 22: v Footscray JUST. Round 13, July 6: v West Adelaide Hellas. Round 15, July 20: v Green Gully. Round 16, August 3: v South Melbourne Hellas. Round 19, August 24: v Heidelberg Alexander. Round 22, Sept 14: v Brisbane City.



● Back row: Con Angelovski (team manager), Gary Cole, Con Opasinis, Ian Roodhouse, Billy Piculovski, Phil Traianedes, Stuart Lee, Steve Smith, Paul Koussas, Bill Murray (coach). Front row: Ron Campbell, George Petrov, Nick van Egmond, Ian Dobson, Graham Heys, Mike McLennan, Mile Necovski, Sean Lane. The insets focus on four of the newcomers to Murray's first team squad. Bottom left is Nick van Egmond, a

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Makedonia



AWAY

Round 1, March 30: v Brisbane City. Round 3, April 13: v West Adelaide Hellas. Round 5, May 4: v Green Gully. Round 6, May 11: v South Melbourne Hellas. Round 9, June 8: v Heidelberg Alexander. Round 12, June 29: v Brisbane Lions. Round 14, July 13: v Adelaide City Juventus. Round 17, August 10: v Brunswick Juventus. Round 18, August 17: v Melbourne Croatia. Round 20, August 31: v George Cross. Round 21, Sept 7: v Footscray JUST.



former Mornington, Nunawading City, Hellas-Hakoah and Ringwood Wilhelmina player. Above left is Mile Necovski, Makedonia's import from Pelister in Yugoslavia. Above right is Ron Campbell from West Perth Macedonia, the 1985 West Australian Rothmans Medal winner and below right is Mike McLennan, youth Socceroo, who joined from the Institute of Sport.

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Dockerty Cup preview
By CRAIG MACKENZIE

Steve Short playing sweeper for Knox, Kevin Lloyd lining up for St Albans Dynamo, Ian Loughnane up front for Broadmeadows, Dave Gibson in midfield for Altona Gate, Gerry Bennett wearing the colors of Sandringham City and Peter Vardaxis adding punch to Oakleigh...

That's what's in store when the first main round of the 1986 Ricoh Dockerty Cup kicks off on Saturday.

As was the case last year, Melbourne-based National League clubs won't enter the competition until its later stages but their absence has done little to affect interest in the oldest Cup competition in Australia as clubs clamour for new signings in order to bolster their league championship aspirations or to consolidate their status.

Traditional Greek rivals Caulfield City, newly promoted to State League, and Oakleigh clash in the first match of a double header at Gardiner's Creek Reserve on Saturday.

"I don't think that match was drawn out of a hat," was the response of Oakleigh player-coach Kris Kalfatidis to the draw.

Kris Kalfatidis is in his first season as a senior coach. He's a former Hellas and Northcote defender but it's unlikely that he'll be lining up in his customary sweeper's role against Caulfield.

"I can't force my way into the side just because I'm the coach. The lads are playing too well right now for me to get a game," he said.

Oakleigh has signed Vardaxis from Hellas for \$3,000, Jim Paparas from Mortdale for \$3,000 and Con Fakos from Maribyrnong on a free transfer. Middle-aged and trying to sign another two players as we went to press.

Oakleigh has lost Socrates Nicolinides, who has returned to Hellas; John Gusic, who has joined Croatia; Joe Leonardi, who has been training with Springvale City and Giovanni Batticchio who has retired.

Nevertheless, Steve Irvine has re-signed and alongside Paparas will give Oakleigh plenty of bite up front which means that we're in for a great game, for both will have one of the leading scorers, Danny Zemanki, former Hellas winger Pepe Abram and former Northcote winger Jim Sahinidis trying to find a way through Oakleigh's defence.

I lean slightly towards Caulfield in what could be a thriller.

Western Suburbs' Scottish import Dennis MacLeod will lineup against Yarraville in the second game at Gardiner's Creek Reserve on Saturday.

Yarraville has signed former Albion and Suburbs striker Billy Bouzas, goal-keeper Nick Apostolidis from Suburbs, Fred Demetriou from Bulleen and his brother Jimmy Bouzas may not lineup against Suburbs because he's still working on his fitness, but Fred Demetriou will be in defence, Jimmy Demetriou in midfield and Apostolidis in goal. Coach Con Karapanagiotidis can look forward to a big year judging by the way his committee is pulling out all stops in a determined bid to sign a goal-keeper from Greek First Division club Iraklis. Yarraville officials won't release his name until

So Melbourne should just be at full strength for its clash with Altona Gate. The duck shooting season must be drawing to a close and the fish must be growing increasingly elusive judging by Victoria's appearance on the training track last week. Melbourne still hadn't completed Kevin in Swinscoe's transfer from Juventus as we went to press and was trying to sign forward Martin Catterton from Sunbury.

Former JUST and Hellas winger Mihailo Ristovski has re-signed with Altona Gate and left back Jim Dervovski, who went overseas in the second half of last season, is back and in fine form. Striker Tim Bikich looks to have fully recovered from knee reconstruction surgery, judging by the two goals he scored against Essendon Tricolours in a recent cupping list.

Altona Gate Vardar also is talking to a 28 year old sweeper from Pelister in Yugoslavia. He's a former Vardar player but Altona

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• Kevin Lloyd — set to join St. Albans Dynamo.



• Peter Vardaxis — from Hellas to Oakleigh.



• Steve Short — now with Knox City

shorty's fancy because he affectionately calls Lynn "piano teeth".

Kit Grechian is recovering from an operation to remove a piece of floating bone in his knee but defender Ron Kremer, who has worked hard on a weightlifting program in the off-season, looks set for a fine year.

St Albans Dynamo coach Tony Vrzina was confident of clinching Kevin Lloyd's signing from Juventus as we went to press and hopes to use Lloyd against Sandringham City in the second match at Churchill Reserve. Vrzina already has signed Robert Krajacic from Green Gully and Mark Wilson from Northcote but expected to lose John Bruno to Essendon Triestina and Zlatko Lerotic to Albion Turku Guci.

If Lloyd is signed, he'll partner Dennis Morovic and Branko Culina up front. They'll be confronted by the formidable presence of former Croydon stalwart Steve McCombe, who joined Vrzina from Carlton and North Dandenong, and is bound to be more than a match for Morovic in the air. Nunawading's other newcomer so far is forward Sandro Bastreski from Bulleen.

Nunawading is coached by Jim Adam, the man who guided West Adelaide Hellas to the 1978 National League championship, and is likely to line up with Scott Nellies, Jonathon Groenewald and Nick Hurstien in midfield with Rob Madjer in goal. Nunawading will give a good account of itself but Dinamo should win.

Charlie Kelly is Knox's caretaker coach and his immediate task will be to guide the side through Saturday's clash with Clarinda and into the next round of the 1986 Ricoh Dockerty Cup. That's the first match of a double header at Croydon Park.

Although Knox is likely to lose Raphael Underwood, Michael Bissinger and Martin Wilde, it has signed the experienced Steve Short, who played with Berwick last season on loan from Green Gully, forwards Dave Nelson from Doveton and Clive Holmes from Clarinda, defender Tom Fitzpatrick from Springvale and was trying to sign stopper Fred Murray from Ringwood Wilhelmina as we went to press.

Clarinda's main signings this season have been the Mitsou brothers, Theo and Jimmy, both from Hellas.

The likely Clarinda line-up is: Michael Ioakimidis — Billy Fergadiotis, Peter Apostolopoulos, captain John Godeas, Peter Constantinos — Aki Charalambous, Peter Petrakis, Bill Gatzos, Jimmy Ouragini — Mike Charalambous. Their Mitsou Olympos in contention are Con Mitsikos and Jimmy Mitsou.

Croydon, 1985 State League champion, should be too strong for Dandenong City in the second match at Croydon Park.

Croydon coach Peter Oliver has only one major problem, who does he drop? Lyn is trying to sign two local strikers but is keeping tight lipped about their identity (which will tickle Joe Do-



• Alun Evans
(Sandringham)

He's got four attacking players in Graham French, Andy Humble, Alex Livingstone and Dave Brogan with Matt McDonald, Jim MacLean, and Steve Beech vying for midfield berths.

French and Dandenong City's new sweeper Steve Gadsby are old mates from their Hakoah days but big French has been known to put himself about so Gadsby won't be made exactly welcome.

Dandenong City's other new signings are David Spencer, Mark Kresan, Mark Phillips and Peter Wild from the now defunct Kew Park Rangers. John Skomrl from Springvale United and the club was trying to sign Davie Luca from Springvale City in time for this clash. Regular goalkeeper Chris Sparrow is recovering from a back injury so Dandenong player-coach Jimmy Daperis is likely to use Graham Angus in goal. The only Dandenong City line-up is Angus — Daperis, Gadsby, Gary Porter, Paddy Delaney and Luca Kresan.

Sandringham City was trying to negotiate a loan deal with George Cross in order to have Gerry Bennett in its line up for its clash with Broadmeadows, in the first match of a double header at Wembley Park. So far, Sandringham's only new signing is midfielder Alti Ayuhun but former Juventus and Richmond striker Renato Poci is back in action and talented midfielder Jason Jacobi also is back after missing the past two seasons mainly due to his blossoming golf career.

Sandringham City lost midfields Billy Buchanan, who has been transferred to Mornington for \$600 and defender Davie Thomas has retired. Sandringham player-coach Billy Morrey has been lining up as sweeper in the past few games with Ian Finnegan partnering him in the heart of defence. With Poci, former Liverpool and

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Saturday's Ricoh Dockerty Cup games with likely winners in capitals:

GARDNER'S CREEK RESERVE
CAULFIELD CITY V Oakleigh at 1.15pm, followed by WESTERN SUBURBS V Yarraville.

SMITH RESERVE
MELBOURNE-HUNGARIA V Altona Gate-Vardar at 1.15pm, followed by FAWKNER V Doncaster Rovers.

CURCHILL RESERVE
SUNBURY V Doveton at 1.15pm, followed by ST ALBANS DINAMO V Nunawading City.

CROYDON PARK
KNOX CITY V Clarinda at 1.15pm, followed by CROYDON V Dandenong City.

WEMBLEY PARK
BROADMEADOWS V Sandringham City at 1.15pm, followed by BOX HILL V Northcote.

MONTEREY RESERVE
POLONIA V North Dandenong at 1.15pm, followed by FRANKSTON PINES V Werribee.

ROSS RESERVE
RINGWOOD WILHELMINA V Springvale United at 1.15pm, followed by SPRINGVALE CITY V Mooroolbark.

PARTRIDGE RESERVE
Albion Turk Guco V BULLEEN at 1.15pm, followed by Thomastown V MORELL FALCONS.

From Page 10

Hellen star Alan Evans and the nippy Alex Fenton up front, Sandringham will stretch Broadmeadows.

Broadmeadows coach Bill McArthur hoped to complete the signing of striker Ian Loughnane from Fawkner in time for this match. There's \$2,500 on Loughnane's head and if signed he'll be joined by Davie Griffith and Dave Perkins. In midfield, Broadmeadows hopes rest with Stewart Blair and George Watson. They'll be pitted against Brian Greenwood and Tony Dillon of Sandringham. Broadmeadows should win but I wouldn't mind betting that this one goes right down to the wire.

Box Hill will be without Peter Verechia, Andy Hughes and Pedro Ramos when it clashes with Northcote in the second match at Wembley Park. It still should win though as Northcote isn't finding its form enough to splash out on new players and lacks Box Hill's depth. Verechia was expected to join Morell Falcons as we went to press while Hughes



**Danny Zemunick
(Caulfield)**

and Ramos were transfer listed last week after a breakdown in negotiations over new contracts.

Despite the demise of last year's first team squad, Polonia will defeat North Dandenong in the first match of a double header at Monte Reserve.

Greg Czapnik, who doesn't look suited to the role, has been tried out as sweeper in recent games but North Dandenong isn't strong up front so Polonia fans can rest easy. A plus

for Polonia should be the return from injury of goalkeeper Leszek Dzielakowski and striker Janusz Przybyla, the latter likely to partner Greg Warszawski in Polonia's attack.

North Dandenong's new signings are Steve Lawson (from Frankston Pines for \$1,300), former JUST defender Jim Milne (from Moriallo on a free), David Wainwright (from Doveton) and Mitchel Pidgin (from Knox). The losses been Steven McCombe (to Nunawading City) and Ian Mackie and Alastair Taylor (both to Dingley).

Lawson is likely to line up as sweeper with Milne stopper. Neil Collyer probably will sit right back and Wainwright left back. In midfield, North Dandenong coach Arthur McMillan may use John Byrne, Tommy Fox and Pilbeam with Jason Symonds, Mark Congdon and John McDonald up front. If McMillan decides to use four in midfield then Gary Buick could come into the starting line-up with one of the forwards dropping out.

Frankston Pines will be too strong for Werribee in the second match at Monte Reserve.

In Stan Webster, Ally Dick, Mick McGowan, Goran Runje and Paul Hennessy Pines have an abundance of attacking flair, too much for Werribee to stifle.

Werribee's only new signings this year are Seb Magano from Sunbury and goalkeeper Angelo Melis from Moreland. The club has signed a deal for striker Greg LoGrasso and one of Werribee's stars, 20-year-old Ian Calderon, is recovering from knee problems. Former Altona City and Sunshine player Peter Scarlett will be in Werribee's defence with Gus Paolo, runner-up in the First Division's best and fairest voting last year, up front.

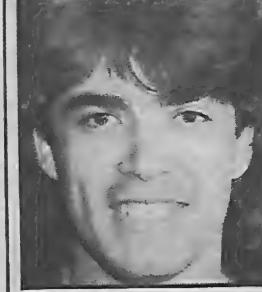
Wilhelmina with recruit Stuart Thomson in its line-up, should beat Springvale United in the first match of a double header at Ross Reserve. But a word of warning to Wilhelmina. Don't take Springvale United lightly, for it is a very skilful if sometimes inconsistent outfit. It certainly can't be on when it puts its mind to it.

Wilhelmina player-coach Kees Storm and Thomson will line up in midfield and Wilhelmina was trying to sign two defenders as we went to press.

Ermias Wondimu, Johnny Nyhoff and Kenny Stewart will be in Wilhelmina's attack and should do enough to save the State League side from embarrassment.

Springvale City still was trying to sort out the Greg House affair in order to use the gifted striker against Mooroolbark in the second match at Ross Reserve.

If the web of intrigue involving Springvale City, Melbourne Croatia and Knox can be unravelled, thereby enabling House to play and Springvale's other addition to its attack, Russell Athersych, arrives from England in time then the Springvale line-up could look something like this. Bill Whiteside — Martin Vogel, Keith Adams, Michael Bissinger, Robin Sette — Ged Bannon, Gordon Bentley, Jim Nelson — Joe D'Amico, House, Athersych.



Pedro Ramos seeks move

Pedro Ramos, 24, one of the finest midfielders in the Victorian State League, has been transfer-listed at his own request by Box Hill for \$5000.

Born in Chile, he joined Box Hill eight years ago as an under 16 player. He has played for the Victorian youth team and was a member of the Victorian schoolboys side that beat NSW in the national schoolboys final in Brisbane a few years ago.

His team-mates at Box Hill have included Scott Patterson and Mike Valentine who went on to play NSL soccer for Heidelberg-Alexander, and Ian Roodhouse and Steve Smith who are now with Preston Makedonia.

A skilful, two-footed player who averages seven or eight goals a year from midfield, Ramos can be obtained at home on (03) 874 6936.



Ian Tuffield hadn't come to terms with Fawkner as we went to press and two Melbourne-based National League clubs were hot on his trail.

Tuffield, 26, recently returned from a year-long stay in the U.S. He didn't play soccer there, preferring to "buy an old Chevy convertible and see the sights."

Tuffield is lethal in the air and is a former Preston Makedonia player. There's little doubt that he could make it in the NSL but Fawkner probably is hoping that it can reach agreement with him on a new contract.



Top scorer dumped!

Brendan Lakic, 28, top scorer of Thomastown for the past two seasons, has been transfer-listed for only \$2500.

The decision by new coach George McMillan not to include Lakic in his 18-man squad is a puzzling one, as Lakic scored 10 goals last year and 16 goals in 1984.

He was also joint top scorer of Polonia, with 14 goals in one of his six seasons there. He also won Polonia's best and fairest award.

Lakic can be contacted at home on (03) 380 4543.

POLONIA'S SIDE OF THE STORY

Polonia president Richard Makarucha has hit out at my story in last week's "Soccer Action" concerning player problems at the Victorian State League club, claiming that Polonia's situation was misrepresented.

I said that Rick Lipiarski, Dave Gibson, Janusz Przybyla, Leszek Dzielakowski, John Little, Claude Avian, Darko Kolaric and Sam Dejica were in contractual dispute with Polonia.

"Rick Lipiarski has never had contractual problems with Polonia. He's been at the club for 10 years and feels that he need a change. That's why he's on the transfer list," said Makarucha.

"We also haven't had contract problems with Dave Gibson who got involved in club politics because he didn't like us sacking Eddie Reid as coach. Janusz Przybyla and Leszek Dzielakowski are injured but not in dispute. Claude Avian and John Little are in a 50/50 situation. They're partly in dispute over contract. Darko Kolaric was pissed off with the coaching last year and didn't like being on the bench in a couple of friendlies this year."

I also said last week that Peter and Greg Czapnik, Savas Saglaam, Mirek Welch and John Vathis were transfer listed last last year. Saglaam had injury problems last year while Kathis transferred to Melbourne.

"They were never transfer listed," said Makarucha.

"Peter Czapnik was in dispute with the club because he didn't like coaching, the same goes for Mirek Welch, while Eddie Reid told Greg Czapnik that he wouldn't make it and Greg had a chronic back problem too."

After refusing to name what I believed was an impeccable source for last week's story, Makarucha told me: "The reporting should be more accurate and should come from people with the authority to comment on club matters. If your source was a Polonia committee man then he'd be sacked immediately."

"I reserve the right to vet everything that goes into the press concerning Polonia."

And "Soccer Action" reserves the right to contact whom it pleases and ask any question it pleases without discussing the matter with the president of Polonia or any club official. We still believe in freedom of speech, within the bounds of laws regarding libel and defamation, of course.

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

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'NO' TO ISRAEL

overseas round-up with PAUL MOON.

• The Brazilian federation has relented and will not now suspend Leandro and Renato from its World Cup squad, the pair had earlier been banned from the training camp after failing to return before curfew. • Despite being a dubious pedigree, the touring USSR team completed its tour of New Zealand without defeat. The Soviets' results in the All Whites were: 1-0 (Auckland), 1-1 (Wellington), 2-1 (Christchurch), 2-0 (Napier) and 4-2 (Gisborne). • Northern Ireland international Gerry Armstrong has left West Bromwich Albion for Chesterfield of the English Third Division. • Argentinian Alfredo Di Stefano, "The White Arrow" of Real Madrid's glory days during the late '50s, has been appointed coach at Valencia. During a previous stint with Di Stefano guided Valencia to the Spanish League title.

• UEFA has, yet again, rejected Israel's application to join European soccer's ruling body.

• A report from Munich, as yet unconfirmed, states that sports-giant Adidas has offered Bernd Schuster \$800,000 to make himself available for the West German World cup squad.

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THE INDOOR BOOM!

After Round Three of Victoria's premier indoor soccer league, the Latrobe Valley League, the Wallabies have set a very high standard for the other teams to achieve.

The international experience of Browne and Brabbin has been passed on to their team mates and certainly shows out in the way they dispose of the opposition.

Peter Goad continues to score goals, putting away five of the Wallabies goals in an 8-5 win over promising newcomers Trak Records.

It was great to see both Anthony and Mark Cassar back playing for Trak Records, scoring two goals each.

Another new team this season, The Spartans, secured a very impressive 4-2 win over Miki Motos. David Wilson, in his first game in two years, top scored with two lightning quick

goals and provided a steady influence in The Spartans' win.

★ ★ ★

The Womens League continues to improve mainly due to the many male coaches who have shown a real interest in assisting the ladies to improve their ball skills.

Coach David Wilson said: "It

was a pleasure to coach these ladies as they show a real keenness to improve."

The Socceros coached by the ever winning David Lloyd, have been moulded into an almost unbeatable force with a recent 5-0 win over newcomers Turfites. Goal scorers in this game were Melinda Davey (2),

Liz Davis (2) and Janine Warren.

All Age Men's results: Gipp-

sars 5 Home Pride Crusaders 2,

Monash 8 v Wallabies 6,

Wallabies 8 v Trak Records 5,

Sparks 4 Miki Motos 2.

All Age Women's results:

Socceroos 5 Turfites 0, Rico

Reds 2 Cats 0, Miki Motos 2

Femme Fatale 8.

Brabbin's the boss

At a recent meeting of players and directors of the Latrobe Valley Indoor Soccer League, Paul Brabbin was unanimously appointed as playing coach of the Latrobe Valley's first State League team.

Paul has been playing indoor soccer for three years and has represented Australia at the World Championship held in Spain in October 1985, Victoria at both the 1985 and 1986 National Championships, and the Latrobe Valley at the 1985 and 1986 National Club Championships.

Paul recently had success in coaching the Valley team to its second successive state championship in November and he is looking forward to continuing his first-up effort and proving to other state centres that the Valley Tigers are Victoria's premier team.



• Eliminators, 9-3 winners over Carciori Rangers, back row: V. Kondinski, M. Giacomi, E. Boin. Front: M. Gennai, M. Terzini, M. Bisetto.

Wallabies set high standard

Four goals for Bissetto as Eliminators cruise

**Eliminators 9
Carciori Rangers 3**

Scorers: Eliminators — Bisetto 4, Kondinski 3, General Giacomi, Carciori Rangers — Sella 2, Gattino.

ELIMINATORS: Boin 8, Giacomi 8, Terzini 8, Bisetto 9, Kondinski 9.

RANGERS: Tochetto 7, Cesarin 8, Sella 8, Sparano 7, Gattino 7.

The game began with both teams going for goal in the first minute but the keepers were ready and waiting and no goals were scored. But the skilful Bissetto worked his way towards goal and scored the first for the Eliminators.

Goals then came from Sparano for the Rangers who was foiled and it was then Kondinski's turn to shoot but he too failed to score.

Sella of Rangers, who played a brilliant game the previous week, tried one of his cannon-like shots but Terzini, the Eliminators' goalkeeper, was not going to be beaten easily. Seven minutes into the game Kondinski tried again for goal but Cesarin saved. A minute later Bissetto intercepted a through ball but

Cesarin managed to get a hand to it and it went over the bar.

Moments later a passing movement from Giacomi to Boin, back to Giacomi and through to Bissetto resulted in the Eliminators' second goal. Two great shots from Tochetto and Sella both failed to add to the score for Rangers.

In the 15th minute, Sella had another shot. The ball was cleared in front of goal, but the resulting scramble saw the ball fall again to Sella's feet and this time he seemed certain to score. His shot beat the keeper but also cleared the bar.

Bissetto made the score 3-0 and the Eliminators fourth goal came soon after when Giacomi's pass to Busetto then to Kondinski saw the keeper watch the ball go through his hands.

A long throw by Gennai to Giacomi led to the Eliminators' fifth goal. Seconds later another inter-

cepted pass saw Bisetto, normally a left footer, score with a brilliant shot with his right foot.

Two minutes into the second half the Bissetto-Kondinski combination again caught Cesarin off guard and resulted in the seventh goal and the third for Kondinski.

In the 4th minute of the second half a clearance by Rangers found Gattino whose high shot caught out Terzini.

It was Sella who, from two metres out of the penalty area, rifled in a shot and gave Rangers their second goal. More shots from the Eliminators didn't bring goals until the 15th minute when a throw-in saw Bisetto run in and score his fourth goal. A foul by Terzini found the Rangers in with a chance to score again and that they did, with Sella getting his second goal. The score was 8-3.

In the 16th minute Gennai closed the scoring with a shot from an extremely sharp angle.

Frangakis sets Euronations on the path to victory

**Euronations 2
Split 0**

EURONATIONS: T. Frangakis, J. Frangakis, M. Mathis, F. Gauci, C. Striou, T. Aperidis, A. Pericic, S. Sinkovic, S. Lawson, N. Rangusa, G. Jarakisis.

The crowd knew before the game started that this was going to be a tough encounter as both teams had their sights set on reaching the finals. Split wanted to make up for last year's semi-final loss to Euronations.

The game was tense and started off at a fast pace with both teams creating numerous scoring opportunities but the final shots didn't find the net.

It was not until the 12th minute of the first half that last year's league Best and Fairest winner, Terry Frangakis, rocketed a right foot drive past Jarakisis in goal for Split.

In the 10th minute of the second half, man-

of-the-match Fabio Gauci scored the Euronations' second goal to clinch the game.

RESULTS: Seniors A — Mutindies 5 Sharp Shooters 0, Euronations 2 Split 0, Makedonia 3 Goodonya 0.

STANDINGS

	W	D	L	F	A	PI
Mutindies	1	0	0	5	0	3
Makedonia	1	0	0	3	0	3
Euronations	1	0	0	2	3	3
Split	0	0	1	2	3	3
Goodonya	0	0	1	0	3	1
Cosmos	0	0	1	0	0	0
OZ United	0	0	0	0	0	0

RESULTS: Youth A — Makedonia A 1 United Nations 2, Junior Cosmos 2, Devils 1.

STANDINGS

	W	D	L	F	A	PI
United Nations	1	0	0	2	1	3
Junior Cosmos	1	0	0	2	1	3
Makedonia B	1	0	0	0	0	3
Makedonia A	0	0	1	1	2	1
Devils	0	0	1	1	2	1

A devilish affair!

Black Devils 12

Golden Greeks 2

Score: Black Devils — Sorani 5, Severino 4, Del Porto 2, Varga.

Black Devils: Bonadido 8, Varga 8, Severino 8, Del Porto 9, Sorani 9.

The Triestina Black Devils trounced the Greek team, continuing on their triumphant march towards the final.

Severino opened up the scoring with Sorani adding a second soon after, and Severino then made the score 4-0 with two quick goals. Del Porto made it 5-0 and Sorani then hit the back

of the net to make it 6-0. Varga scored to make it 7-0 and in the 13th minute the Greeks scored one of their two goals.

In the second half, it was soon 9-1 when first Del Porto and then Severino scored again, then Sorani made it 10-1. The score changed to 10-2 when the Greeks managed another shot, but John Sorani answered quickly, hammering two blistering shots to make it 12-2.

It is clear that it will take a very good team indeed to beat this goalscorer machine and it looks as if the Triestina boys will be taking home the trophy from Sunshine.



• Velce Kondinski

Sky's the limit for Kondinski

This week's profile features not a well-seasoned player but a youngster who, according to many, has an excellent future in soccer.

Velce Kondinski, a 16 year old, in just seven years has won awards many his age only dream about. In his first year with Preston Makedonia, Velce won the Most Improved Player award and twice the Best and Fairest Player award.

He has played indoor soccer for three seasons and has won the Preston League Best and Fairest as well as being on Makedonia's winning team two seasons in a row.

In last year's competition in Morwell, Velce's team was runner-up. The team then played in Sydney for the Australian championship and made the semi-finals only to lose 1-0 to Croatia. Nevertheless, Velce's performance did not go unnoticed and he was picked in the U/18 Australian team.

Asked why he plays indoor soccer, Velce said: "It's a game that keeps me very fit and I enjoy playing with my friends."

Kondinski also is a member of the Preston National League team, the Eliminators, which he really enjoys being a part of, because he finds that competition in this field is more skilful and fiercer, as well as the fact that travelling interstate lets you see how the competition varies in indoor soccer.

What is Velce's aim? What else, to represent the senior Australian indoor soccer team.

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It's Beograd, Juventus in the final

**Beograd 1
WA-Hellas 0**

Scorer: Greaves 82nd

It's Beograd v Adelaide Juventus in the SA Ampol Cup final at the Hindmarsh Stadium tonight (Wednesday, March 12) after a king-size

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upset and a near upset in the semi-finals.

Beograd defied the odds to eliminate highly fancied West Adelaide Hellas in an extra-time thriller, while Juventus nosed home against Azzurri with a late goal from Adrian Santrac.

There was a tinge of disbelief surrounding Beograd's success over Hellas.

Unquestionably, Hellas had been the star turn of the minor round as it banged in 10 goals and allowed only one in its three games.

And as it picked up its six qualifying points Hellas entertained with football of genuine quality.

Beograd, by contrast, stumbled into the major round with two wins (one an uncertain 1-0 effort against Elizabeth City) and a 0-2 loss to Juventus.



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN AMPOL CUP

with ALLAN CRISP

The final will put brother against brother as Beograd coach Johnny Nyskohus attempts to stop his elder brother Bugsy leading Juventus to its second successive Ampol Cup win.

There was a fair share of brotherly rivalry in the second semi-final, with David Alberton of Juventus opposed to his brother Robbie Alberton of Azzurri and Azzurri goalkeeper David Miller on the opposite side to his striker brother Colin Miller.

The heroes of the first semi-final were Beograd goalkeeper Frank Pasquini, Rothmans Medal winner Paul Shillabeer of Beograd and match-winning goalscorer Sean Greaves, whose deflected

shot beat Hellas goalkeeper Gary Sproul.

Hellas was best served by Allan Scott, who created countless chances with his left flank crosses and Charlie Yankos in his first full game for his new club.

Santrac threw Juventus a Cup lifeline with his late goal, while our defenders Neville Flounders and Bugsy Nyskohus were as reliable as ever.

The villains of the night were Hellas midfielder John Panagis, whose send-off thwarted any hope Hellas had of notching an equaliser and Azzurri midfielder Ossie Michelon, who got his marching orders in the second semi against Juventus.

SA CUP DETAILS

BEograd 1 (Greaves 82nd) ADELAIDE HELLAS 0. At Hindmarsh Stadium Crowd: 4,731. (Double-header). Referee: John Miller 9. Cautions: A. Brazzale (B), Arezina (B), Manou (H). Sent-off: Panagis (H).

BEograd: Pasquini 9, A. Brazzale 8, Douglas 8, Shillabeer 9, Hancar 8, Welsh 8, Greaves 8, Rumsir 7, Preston 7, Millar 7, M. Brazzale. Subs: Arezina for M. Brazzale 51st, Krizman for Douglas 94th. Coach: Johnny Nyskohus.

ADELAIDE HELLAS: Sproul 7, Mousoulis 7, Scott 8, Hiern 7, Yankos 8, Honeyman 7, McLaughlin 7, Hristodoulou 7, Manou 6, Price 7, Konstandopoulos 6. Subs: Panagis for Konstandopoulos 41st. Brown for McLaughlin 81st. Coach: Neil McGahey.

ADELAIDE CITY JUVENTUS 1 (Santrac 75th) AZZURRI 0. At Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 4,731 (Double-header). Referee: Jim Ross 7. Caution: Vidmar (J). Sent-off: O. Michelon (S).

JUVENTUS: McNally 8, Tobin (Higgins 8th) 7, D. Alberton 8, Nyskohus 8, Flounders 8, Santrac 7, Villani 6 (Miller 70th), Northcote 7, Maxwell 6, Vidmar 6, Mullen 8. Coach: Zoran Matic.

AZZURRI: D. Miller 8, F. Michelon 8, Kitchin 7 (Moretti 72nd), O. Michelon 7, R. Alberton 8, Zia 8 (Roberts 76th), Francis 8, Ilicic 7, DeVita 6 (O'Connor 47th), Bojczuk 6, Giannitto 7. Coach: Joe Serafini.

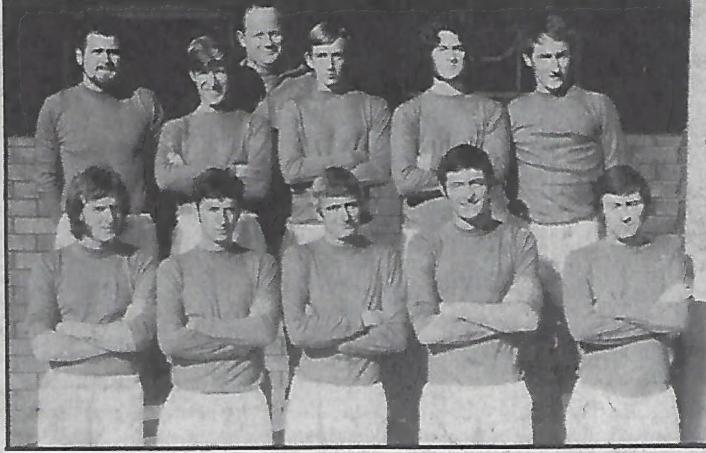
BLASTS FROM THE PAST



• RALPH COATES, England international of Tottenham Hotspur, revs up his team in one of 10 guest games for St. George Budapest in 1978. Ray Clemence, the England and Liverpool goalkeeper, played two guest games for the Saints that year.



• CHARLIE GEORGE, superstar of Arsenal and Derby County, tangles with Arthur Xanthopoulos of South Melbourne Hellas while guesting for St. George Budapest at Middle Park in 1977. Malcolm Macdonald played for Hellas in that match, which St. George won 3-2 in front of 14,000 people. Scorers were Rudi Gnavi, Mark Jankovics and Charlie George for St. George, and Macdonald scored both goals for Hellas. Best players were Macdonald, Billy Rogers, Mike Pye and Xanthopoulos for Hellas, and Rob O'Shea, Gavvi, Phil O'Connor and Charlie George for St. George. Pictured in the background is Hellas full back Margaritis Hagegeanouli.



• SYDNEY CROATIA, 1970, featuring Tommy Randles and Nigel Shepherd who had played for Slavia in Melbourne, and Dave Taylor who, like Randles, represented New Zealand. From left, standing: Williams, Lincoln, Carr, Campbell, Wright. Front: Taylor, Ross, Randles, Shepherd, F. Cusick.



• MELBOURNE CROATIA, 1968 — the squad that won the Victorian State League, minus Billy Vojtek who was absent when the picture was taken. From left, standing: Kovacek, Bot, Young, D. McKay, McIntyre, Rau, Bercsi, D. McKay, Friganovic. Front: Jimmy Vojtek, Kempt, McMeekan, Currie, Adlam.



• GEORGE BEST, legendary ball wizard of Manchester United and Northern Ireland, with Brisbane Lions in 1983. Standing, from left: John Stewart, Peter McClurg, David Niven, Alan Hunter, Danny Wright, Simon Kiste-



• TONY TURNER, the man who cost South Melbourne Hellas three competition points in 1978 because he had not been cleared properly from England, heads the ball clear in a match against Sydney Hakoah at Wentworth Park. Hellas finished last that season, but avoided relegation. Also pictured, from left: John Stevenson (Hak), Bertie Lutton (Hellas), Gerry Gomez (Hak) and Sammy Wright

VIVA ITALIA!

with ROCKY DI ZIO



Benvenuto Yzendoorn

La Juventus finalmente è riuscita ad assicurarsi il libero Yzendoorn dall'rivale per eccellenza South Melbourne Hellas per la cifra non indifferente di \$14,500.

Il giocatore era stato il "palino" del nuovo allenatore McKendry che lo considera indispensabile al suo schema di gioco, come lo era stato nel South Melbourne Hellas, nel "Heidelberg" e nella stessa del Victoria.

A rigor del vero non si può' dare colpa a McKendry per avere voluto a tutti i costi Yzendoorn. Anche se ormai non più giovanissimo, ha compiuto 30 anni, il giocatore è indubbiamente uno dei migliori "liberi" d'Australia nel significato più vero del termine "libero" di spingersi dalla posizione di estremo difensore per appoggiare la manovra del centrocampista e proiettarla addirittura in posizione di tiro risolutore.

Con la bellezza di 24 reti messo a segno nella massima competizione Yzendoorn, difensore, diventa addirittura "capocannoniere" della Juventus avendo segnato più reti di Sweaty (21) e di Zinni (13) in Lega Nazionale.

L'arrivo del classico difensore goleador permette inoltre il ritorno di Dowis al ruolo a lui più congeniale di centrocampista. Con un solo acquisto così la difesa bianconera si è arricchita di classe ed il centrocampista ha trovato un ottimo sostituto per Miranda (sorettette comprese).

Il problema maggiore, quello dell'attacco, è rimasto però insolto, anzi è addirittura peggiorato a causa di certe proposte "soluzioni" adottate dallo stesso McKendry.

L'anno scorso Margaritis aveva accettato il fatto di non aver punti di rilievo facendo

manovrare l'intero centrocampo come mezzapunta. La Juventus aveva messo a segno 39 reti (olo il South Melbourne di Charlie Egan aveva segnato di più) e le marcature portano i nomi di tutti i centrocampisti e di qualche difensore, oltre a quelli del centravanti Sweeney e di Zinni che fece spesso da seconda punta.

Quest'anno McKendry ha invece deciso di "fare" punta Incantatupu, un giocatore totalmente negato per tale ruolo e praticamente insostituibile nella fascia sinistra come centrocampista e mezzapunta.

E nessuno ci venga a dire che Incantatupu è Zinni: non sono allo stesso livello più o meno dei altri atleti in bicampegno. Ci guarderemmo bene dall'azzardare la tifoseria contro un nuovo allenatore, di cui abbiamo la massima stima, ma è bene essere chiari ed esplicativi per evitare incresciose situazioni future. Se McKendry, come si mormora in giro da un po' di tempo, fosse intenzionato a far pare brutta figura ai due ragazzi italiani per giustificare l'esclusione dalla squadra, ha sbagliato di grosso.

Incantatupu e Zinni saranno ancora alla Juventus quando McKendry non sarà altro che un vago ricordo. Se lo metta bene in testa.

Noi non crediamo ai morimori che hanno cominciato a sollevarsi fra la tifoseria bianconera a questo riguardo, ma non possiamo nemmeno fermarli. L'unico capace di prevedere a tutti e due i loro destini è Incantatupu che riceverà, anno il trattamento che meritano dopo anni di ottime prestazioni in bianconero e lo stesso McKendry, magari con un po' di convinzione da parte del presidente Caruso che meglio di ogni altro è nella posizione di sentire il polso del pubblico italiano.

McKendry ha ancora una decina di giorni ed alcune partite di allenamento per decidere la sua formazione tipo prima del primo turno della N.S.U. Cup (contro il Croatia all'Olympic Park) domenica 23 marzo e dell'inizio del campionato (contro il South Melbourne Hellas all'Olympic Park) la settimana successiva, 30 marzo, giorno di Pasqua.

Speriamo che McKendry riesca a rendersi conto che insistendo per la strada intrapresa non farà' altro che "sacrificare" sia Incantatupu che Zinni, due giocatori che impiegati nei ruoli a loro più consoni sono da anni dei plasti della Juventus. E se

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Deankovic or Davidson: who's best?

Drago Deankovic of Melbourne Croatia was dumped in the reserves for 18 months after following his mates, Josip Biskic and Jozo Antolovic to Australia. Today, Deankovic rivals Alan Davidson as the finest right back in the country.

Deankovic is flattered by the comparison, but he laughs it off.

"Davidson is better," he says. "I really like the way he plays for Australia."

"It's the whole Australian team, and the way it plays under Frank Arok, adding that it is his ambition also to play for the Socceroos."

In a few months' time, Deankovic, 26, will have been a permanent resident for the three years that are required before you are eligible for Australian citizenship. And once he is naturalised, he's sure to be considered as Arok, who was impressed by Deankovic in Croatia's victory over George Cross in the 1986 Olympic semi-finals.

Unfortunately for eager fans, they won't be able to compare the full-back qualities of Deankovic and Davidson in clashes between Croatia and Hellas this year, because while Davidson plays right back for Australia, he will be in midfield for Hellas.

Manfred Kaltz, the former West German international, is the full back on whom Deankovic has tried to model himself.

"I want to play like he played," he says. "He is strong, big and fast, and he has a very good cross."

Deankovic had a brief of responsibility to do when he came to Australia, but he never played full back before. He was a centre back with Borova and Osijek back home. "We always played double centre halves at home. One would mark, and the other would sweep, depending what side the action was on."

"When I came here, I thought they didn't know soccer in Australia, but I was very surprised. There is good soccer here. It is not easy for players from overseas. Some players cannot adapt."

"Now I really enjoy playing full back, although Miron Bleiberg tries to make me move as a midfielder. I go forward like a missile and then get myself a full back."

Only four 10atings were awarded to players during the Buffalo Cup. They went to Deankovic for his performance against George Cross — and to his Croatia team-mates Steve Gojevic and Gary Ward for their roles in a 6-0 victory over Morell Falcons, as well as Heidelberg goalkeeper Jeff Oliver in the final.

Obviously, Deankovic is looking forward to the best season of his career and perhaps to winning the NSL championship, yet it was all too different in 1983.

The Deankovic story begins back in Yugoslavia, where he played for Borova in the third division, and graduated to the senior team of Osijek, then coached by Dom Kapetanovic, now the boss of Canterbury Marrickville. Antolovic, who returned late last year to Yugoslavia, also was at Osijek.

Biskic, who had been with Deankovic at Borova, and Antolovic, joined Melbourne Croatia in 1982, and Deankovic followed them three months later.

"At the end of that season, I played all the games under coach Joe Kiss. My last game was in the top four series against Green Gully. Deankovic says.

Then John Gardner became the coach. I'll never forget my first training session under him. He picked up 16 players, and sent the rest of us to train with the reserves at the other side of the ground. He just didn't like me.

I was about one and a half years, playing in the reserves, sitting on the bench, coming on for 10 or 15 minutes. I really lost confidence in that time. People did not believe in me. It was a hard time."

Terry Hennessy came from America and took over from Gardner in early 1984 and I thought it would be different now. He was a good coach and he would demand discipline. But after a good start, it was the same as before. The players were the chiefs. Tommy Cumming, Keith Adams and Shaun Parfitt. They always had something to say, and Hennessy left. I always got on OK with these players, but they liked a different style of soccer."

Deankovic was considered the best player in Croatia's reserves, and even the reserves' coach, George Train, couldn't understand why Deankovic wasn't being given a go in the first team. Deankovic acknowledges, though, that Croatia had an excellent team which was by no means easy to break into.

"Tony Curcio was the right back and Ante Bilaver the left back. There were George Hrubesic and I also took over from Bilaver. Those were the good players," he says.

"But when Hennessy resigned, Tommy Cumming took over as coach for a while and I think he and some of the committee pushed me into the team. My first full game after 18 months was against Macedonia in the National Cup. Robert Markovac also played his first game that day. Later, Tony Vrzina took over as coach and we had a run of about 17 games without losing, so I think I was all right."

"But I had to keep playing well because there was strong competition from Peter Lewis who joined from Green Gully and Jim Campbell who came from Heidelberg. Campbell was on the bench for many games, and Lewis, although he is a right back, was put in as stopper or midfielder so I could keep my position."

Deankovic's confidence has improved even more under Miron Bleiberg, who became senior coach at the end of the 1985 season. "I have more experience now, as well," he says. "Miron is an honest man. He doesn't talk behind your back. He has made the team just like a family. We all talk together about every game and the spirit is excellent. But I don't know how Miron can keep together such a big squad. If he can do it, it will be a miracle."

Deankovic's latest to join that large squad are Davor Tadic, a sensational left flanker from Zadar, and striker Ante Ljubic who has returned to Australia after spending the off season back home.

"Tadic will be a top player in Australia. Keep an eye on him," Deankovic says.

Croatia had hoped to get Antolovic back for the 1986 season, but the club can't count on it, according to Todic. "I have spoken to him and he said he wants to stay in baby, and it's going to be hard to make it over there. He is with Olimpia at the time, but I trust him to always come back if the move goes through."

Deankovic himself, has no intention of going back home in the foreseeable future. "I came here for one year but now it has been four years," he says. "I am buying a flat now, which will take three or four years to pay off."

He and his wife have one child, a daughter, Ivana. His wife's name is Gordana, the same name as Ante Ljubic's wife. "I must have spoken to him and he said he wants to stay in baby, and it's going to be hard to make it over there. He is with Olimpia at the time, but I trust him to always come back if the move goes through."

The Deankovic-Biskic combination on the right flank is one of Croatia's strongest weapons. "We have an excellent understanding because we have played together so long," Deankovic says. "I could be blind, but I would still know where Biskic is. It is not that I want to give the ball only to Biskic all the time, but it is true that we always play well together."

Gary Ward is another fine player. He is the only one who is really hungry for goals. Everyone at Croatia knows how to play soccer, but we need someone to score, and that's Ward. Todic is more like Biskic, he plays on the side, and he is very strong, so he probably will score more. Ljubic also likes to play. He is a good player, and he can do well in midfield."

There has been a rumour that Luke Bonacic will be moved to the sweeper's position to make room in midfield for at least one of the new arrivals. Deankovic doesn't think so. "Tony Curcio is very good in the sweeper's position, and I know Miron would like to keep Bonacic in the midfield because he is such a good player," he says. "I know that everyone has been playing for himself in some games, but when we play the first ball, and one-twos, we will beat anyone."

By
LAURIE
SCHWAB



• Alan Davidson of SM-Hellas and the Socceroos.



• Drago Deankovic (left) pursues Brown of SM-Hellas.

MELBOURNE CROATIA RUMOR



• Bleiberg



• Deankovic



• Curcio



• Gojevic



• Biskic



• Campbell

Scotland, where he played for Dundee. A huge, imposing figure who can scare off opponents with his blooming voice alone. 17 years old.

• GEORGE HANNAH, 28, left back, strong, quiet Scot signed three years ago from the now defunct Hakoah (Vic) where he played as stopper. Still used in defensive positions, he has been called into the national team when Croatia plays against town strikers. Utterly reliable, he is hailed among team mates as the man who can present the present squad. Switched from the left to central midfield this year to fit him more involved role as exceptional skill and vision are added. Was a member of many national squads last year and is destined for Socceroos honours soon. 10 NSL goals.

• LUCA BONADIC, 30, midfielder, one of the most distinguished players in Australian soccer, having played for Heidelberg, Carlton, Western United, Melbourne City and VH Buchum in West Germany. Was a team mate of Sydney Croatia coach Vedran Radulovic at Hajduk Split in 1982 and has increased his work load from year to year. A potential match-winner, he played eight nights in Yugoslavia for his representative team, 1984. Given a ball and has had a great year. Represented Victoria against West Berlin, 1984. Has scored 8 NSL goals.

• DAYNE CAMPBELL, 30, central mid-fielder, one of the sole few to have played in the NSL since its start in 1977. When he arrived from England to join Heidelberg Alexander from where he transferred to Croatia for \$22,000 in 1984. A former prolific goalscorer from midfield, he has now adopted a more defensive role, always the first to drop back when an attack breaks down. Has played eight games for Australia. Remains the NSL's highest scoring central midfielder of all time, with a total of 58.

• GARY WARD, 29, striker, ten seasons of the Buffalo Cup with seven goals, he is one of the big personalities of Victorian soccer. By no means a titillating man, Ward has been scoring goals galore since he joined the Western United from Chivas Alexander in England. He then played for Orient, Vancouver Whitecaps (Canada), Preston Makedonia and Bruns-wick Juventus before joining Croatia early last year. Croatia's 1985 top scorer with 15 goals, he is a reliable and versatile substitute for the seniors.

• ANTE LJUBIC, striker or midfield, has been a star for his youth sides for a number of years. Yet to be selected for the off-season. Yet to show his best Australian soccer. 11 NSL goals.

• MIRON BLEIBERG, 37, coach, an ever-present for Croatia, he has overseen a remarkable transformation of Croatia in training that competition and in the Buffalo Cup the team has yet to lose a game and Bleiberg, who was Croatia's youth team coach before taking over the senior team. Started his coaching career in 1964 on which he was to be a world cup with his wife in mind, but was caught in the grip of a game he loves. In his native Israel, played as a full back for Maccabi Haifa and also had a year as youth coach with Maccabi Haifa. Bleiberg has coachings in six years of coaching in Israel.

• ANTONIO PODORIC, 26, left flanker or stopper, joined three weeks ago from Zadar. Explosive, entertaining attacker who loves to take on opponents and shield the ball exceptionally well, he scored in his debut debut in the Buffalo Cup. Signed by local agent George Train.

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• Attacking midfielder be in the Sydney Croatia in the Ansett Cup 3pm on Sunday with t

Rumors, who arrives o sure to lure a huge crowd between these sister clubs

SYDNEY CROATIA



• Watson



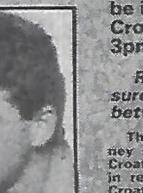
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• Kovacic



• Jurin



• Odzakovic



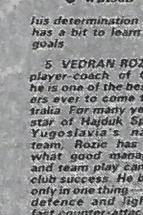
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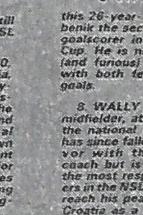
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• Kovacic



• Jurin



• Odzakovic

his determination but still has a bit to learn. 3 NSL goals.

• MIRJAN KOVACIC, 28, midfield or stopper, one of two Kovacic brothers at Croatia, Mirjan developed his skills in Zagreb, causing quite a stir as one of the most under-rated players in NSW. Kovacic has supreme skill in both feet, speed to match, and is a real purist among the best "correctors" in the game. He is Croatia's youngest to score in the 1985 NSL's youngest team captain but is also the longest-serving Croatian player in the NSL.

• GRAHAM JENNINGS, 26, left back, at 24, Jennings is a commanding and aggressive defender in the country. Started his career at Adamstown on the Central Coast and for years was one of the best defenders in the League. Highly regarded by most of our distinguished visiting sides, Jennings was signed from Sydney Olympic. Represented Australia in the 1984 Commonwealth Games and played 10 games for the National Youth Team. 12 NSL goals.

• DRAGO BEZO, 24, full back, product of Croatia Juniors and at 23 the baby of the tri-coloured national team, Bezo has moved to full back at the start of this season. Impresses with

4 NSL goals.

• ZELJKO JURIN, 25,

Croatia's star forward, his speed and finishing made

this 26-year-old from Split the second-highest goalscorer in the Ampol Cup. He is not only fast and furious but deadly with both feet. 10 NSL goals.

• WALLY SAVOR, 26, midfielder, at one time in the national team, Savor has since fallen out of favor with the national coach but is still one of the most promising players in the NSL. He is yet to reach his peak. Raised at Croatia as a junior, eight Socceroos games, 5 NSL goals.

• GRAHAM ARNOLD, 23, striker, still one of the babies of Croatia Juniors, Arnald is an ex-Canterbury player, one of the most feared foes. Scored five goals in nine Socceroos games and 24 NSL goals.

• EMIL DRAGICEVIC,

forward, imported from Dinamo Zagreb at the

start of this season.

start of last season (in the Ampol Cup) has made a big impact at his new club. With four goals to his credit in the Ampol Cup, he is not to be counted out when in front of goal. 6 NSL goals.

• ZARKO ODZAKOVIC, 20, midfielder, an ex-Canberra regular and currently Australian midfield maestro, Odzakovic is certainly one of the most skillful, enormous fire power and exceptional vision puts him light years ahead of most of the NSL midfielders. Was signed by Western United for \$21,000 early last year. Played 15 games for Australia. 14 NSL goals.

• GREG WOODHOUSE, 26, one-time Australian national team custodian, who is now a regular in the first team. Kept in half the Ampol Cup games. Previously with APIA Leichhardt. 24 Socceroos games.

• ALEX KAROLIC, 25, full back, the brother of Mirjan, a product of Croatia's juniors, St. Kilda coach, Karolik has been a lot of enthusiasm and application.

• JOHN KERO, 21, defender, midfielder or forward. A product of Sydney Croatia Juniors, this youngster has been knocking on the first team door for some time.

• BOB MARKOVAC, 28, star of the 1986 World Cup, was in the squad for Australia's qualification for the 1987 World Cup. Made his first team debut in 1981 at the age of 16. Has scored 8 NSL goals.

• TONY RADOMND, 23, central midfield, a player to be reckoned with. Signed by the Western United in 1984 and then switched to Brisbane Lions from where Cross signed him late last season. 4 NSL goals.

• MARK BROWN, 24, midfield, signed by the Western United in 1984 and then signed by the Western United in 1985. Made his senior debut in the Buffalo Cup last year. Had a brilliant future.

• ANTHONY LEITCHARD, 26, left back, a former Croatia youth team player who is proving a reliable and versatile substitute for the seniors.

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• Bonacic also wants Bonacic to become Sydney Croatia's director of junior coaching. However, that doesn't add weight to recent press speculation about a rift between Bonacic and Melbourne Croatia coach Miron Bleiberg.

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• Bonacic scored Croatia's winning goal while Jurin, in sparkling form, scored for Sydney Croatia in its 1-0 defeat of Inter-Minoro in last weekend's NSW Ampol Cup final.

• That means that the lead-